Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-145
Friday
28 July 1995

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-145 *28 July 1995*

CONTENTS

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

Gaza Hamas Leader Asks U.S. To Free Abu-Marzuq *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
'Arafat: PA Willing To Admit Abu-Marzuq to Gaza *[AFP]* 1
Hamas Warns U.S. Not To Extradite Abu-Marzuq *[AFP]* 1
U.S. To Grant PA $40 Million Over 5 Years *[Jericho VOP]* 2
'Arafat: Part of Golan Belongs to Palestinians *[AFP]* 2
Fatah Aide Criticizes 'Palestinian Golan' Remarks *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 27 Jul]* .. 2
Fatah Aide Sees 'Temporary Truce,' Not Peace *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 23 Jul]* 2
Paper Blames 'Israeli Policy' for Violent Acts *[AL-NAHAR 25 Jul]* 4
Senior Hamas Activist Freed, Others in Prison *[HA'ARETZ 28 Jul]* 4
Hamas Report on Student Election Success *[London FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH Jul]* 4
Hamas Report: PA Attacks Gaza Mosques *[London FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH Jul]* 7
First Palestinian Plane Overflies Gaza Strip *[Jericho VOP]* 9
Orient House Calls For Disarming of Settlers *[Jericho VOP]* 9
Security Chief Yusuf on Extremism, Settlements *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 25 Jul]* 9
Fatah Higher Committee Meets in Ramallah *[Jericho VOP]* 11
'Ashrawi on Possible Run for Council Seat *[Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU 26 Jul]* 11

Arab-Israeli Talks

Quray', Savir Agree To Resume Talks Near Elat 13
Quray' on Water Rights *[Jerusalem International]* 13
Says 'Many Snags' Remain *[AFP]* 14
Palestinian Police in Hebron Accepted *[DAVAR 28 Jul]* 14

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Details of Amendments to Electoral Law Reported *[Algiers Radio]* 15
Spousal Candidacy Condition Ruled Unconstitutional *[Algiers Radio]* 16

Egypt

Musa Comments on Bosnia, U.S. Senate Decision *[MENA]* 16
Paper Criticizes Clinton's Stance on Bosnia *[MENA]* 17
Musa Calls PA's al-Husayni After Settlers' Attack *[MENA]* 17
Paper on Planning, Execution of Assassination Plot *[Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI 7 Jul]* 17
Article on International Muslim Brotherhood Goals *[AL-MUSAWWAR 7 Apr]* 20

Libya

Liaison Secretary Meets Tunisian Foreign Minister *[JANA]* 22

Morocco

House Amends Law on Economic Boycott of Israel *[AL-ASWAQ 27 Jul]* 45
Al-Kabariti Hails Write-Off of Debts to U.S. *[Amman Radio]* 45
Minister Confers With Head Palestinian Negotiator *[Amman TV]* 45
Columnist Hails 'Heroic' Ramat Gan Bombing *[SHIHAN 29 Jul]* 45
Ukrainian Minister Signs Trade Protocol *[Amman Radio]* 46
More Details on Trade Talks *[JORDAN TIMES 28 Jul]* 47

LEBANON

Prime Minister Leaves on Official Visit to France *[Beirut Radio]* 48
Army Receives 16 U.S.-Made Helicopters *[VOL]* 48
Hizballah Denies Links With Suspects in Argentina *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 48
Fadlallah Condemns Paris Bomb, Views 'Seven-Day War' *[London AL-HAYAH 27 Jul]* 48

SYRIA

UK Delegation Holds News Conference, Departs *[Damascus Radio]* 50
Paper Says Partial Accords Lead to 'Anarchy' *[AL-THAWRAH 25 Jul]* 50
Radio Commentary Reiterates Peace Position *[Damascus Radio]* 51

SOUTH ASIA

Bangladesh

Foreign Secretary Briefs OIC Envoys on Bosnia *[Dhaka Radio]* 53
Daily Expects Economic Ties With Iran To Develop *[THE MORNING SUN 23 Jul]* 53
Officials View Court Ruling on Opposition MP's *[AFP]* 53
Opposition Calls For Dissolution *[AFP]* 54

India

West Said Trying To Dominate UN Security Council *[INDIAN EXPRESS 25 Jul]* 54
'Diluted' Stand on U.S. Arms to Pakistan Denied *[Delhi Radio]* 55
Article Warns of Pakistan Aircraft Acquisition *[THE TIMES OF INDIA 25 Jul]* 55
Afghan Group Claims Responsibility for Bomb Blast *[Delhi Radio]* 56
Reportage, Commentary on Western Hostage Situation 56
AFP Reports on Suspended Search 56
Daily Views Pakistan Mediation *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 25 Jul]* 57
Daily Praises Government 'Firmness' *[INDIAN EXPRESS 26 Jul]* 57

Iran

Prayer Leaders Address Bosnia in Friday Sermons 58
Amini Condemns World 'Silence' *[IRNA]* 58
Emami-Kashani Calls For 'Generous Aid' *[Tehran Radio]* 58
Further on Emami-Kashani Remarks *[IRNA]* 59
Bosnian Muslims Urged To Accept Muslims' Help *[TEHRAN TIMES 24 Jul]* 59
Report Views Mohsen Rafiqdust, State of Nation *[Milan IL SOLE-24 ORE 20 Jul]* 59
HAMSHAHRI Details New Press Law Proposal *[27, 29, 30 May]* 62

Pakistan

Official Denies Arms to Bosnia, Lauds U.S. Vote *[Islamabad TV]* 67
Spokesman Comments on Ali's Afghan Visit, Bosnia *[Islamabad Radio]* 67
U.S. Urged To Pressure India on Regional Peace *[JANG 25 Jul]* 68
'Unprovoked' Indian Firing Reported; 5 Killed *[Islamabad Radio]* 68
Uzbek Official Visits, Meets President Leghari *[Islamabad TV]* 69
Bangladeshi Official Meets Leaders, Signs Agreement *[Islamabad TV]* 69
Bhutto Addresses 'Terrorism,' Political Future *[London BBC TV]* 69
Police Launch 'Antiterrorist Action' in Karachi *[Islamabad Radio]* 70
MQM Leader Reviews Strikes After 'Barbaric Acts' *[THE NEWS 26 Jul]* 71
Official Talks Continue Between Government-MQM 71
Law Minister Denies 'Deadlock' *[Islamabad Radio]* 71
MQM Team Chief Hails Bhutto Remark *[Islamabad Radio]* 71
Daily Reports on Fourth Round *[THE NATION 27 Jul]* 71

Sri Lanka

Deputy Minister Details Strategy Against LTTE *[Colombo International]* 72
'Urgent' Arms Purchase From Pakistan Reported *[AFP]* 73
Reportage on Fighting Between Government, LTTE 73
Army Forces Attack Rebel Headquarters *[Colombo International]* 73
Security Forces Repulse Rebel Attacks *[AFP]* 73

Palestinian Affairs

Gaza Hamas Leader Asks U.S. To Free Abu-Marzuq

TA2707182095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] Political Bureau, was arrested two days ago when he arrived at Kennedy Airport in New York. [passage omitted] In response to a question, Israeli sources in Washington said that they are currently examining the legal aspects of the arrest.

'Imad al-Faluji, a Hamas leader in the Gaza Strip, has said that Abu—Marzuq's arrest is unjustified and does not serve stability in the region. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that al-Faluji called on the United States to release Abu-Marzuq because he is a political figure. Al-Faluji said that the arrest is meant to pressure Hamas, but that the movement will not open a new front against Western countries.

'Arafat: PA Willing To Admit Abu-Marzuq to Gaza

NC2807074195 Paris AFP in English 2157 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, July 27 (AFP) — The Palestinian Authority [PA] is ready to allow a top Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] official arrested in the United States to the self-rule area of Gaza if he is expelled, a spokesman for PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat said Thursday [27 July].

"The Palestinian Authority is ready to welcome (Musa) Abu-Marzuq if he is expelled from the United States," spokesman Marwan Kanafani said. "We hope his detention is not linked to his nationality or his religious beliefs," he added. Abu-Marzuq, originally from Rafah in the Gaza Strip, has been charged with violating U.S. immigration law in connection with terrorism, U.S. immigration officials said.

"The INS has charged Abu-Marzuq with exclusion from the United States for known or suspected engagement in terrorist activities," Bergeron told AFP. "He is not eligible to enter the United States."

Abu-Marzuq, who was detained at Kennedy airport in New York on Tuesday, will be detained pending an appearance before an immigration judge who will rule on the charge against him. If found "exclusionable," he will be deported, Bergeron said.

He has been a permanent resident alien of the United States and has held his "green card," a residency and work permit, since 1990, INS officials said.

Israeli television said he was suspected of masterminding a string of deadly anti-Israeli attacks as part of a campaign to sabotage the peace process between the Jewish state and the Palestinians.

Palestinian sources said Abu-Marzuq is the head of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas's political bureau for the Moslem fundamentalist group's activities abroad.

Hamas Warns U.S. Not To Extradite Abu-Marzuq

NC2807100995 Paris AFP in English 0831 GMT 28 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, July 28 (AFP) — The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) warned the United States on Friday [28 July] not to extradite one of its key leaders to Israel. "Hamas warns the U.S. authorities against contemplating the handing over of Dr. (Musa) Abu-Marzuq to the Zionist occupation authorities," the group said in a statement. "The U.S. Administration is hereby held fully responsible for whatever harm may befall Dr. Abu-Marzuq."

Abu-Marzuq, 44, was detained upon arrival at New York's Kennedy airport on Tuesday. The U.S. authorities filed charges against him "for known or suspected engagement in terrorist activities."

Israel is considering an application to extradite him, but officials have warned it would be difficult to prove any involvement in terrorism.

Hamas urged Washington to release immediately Abu-Marzuq, head of the Hamas political bureau for foreign activities.

"The continuing detention of Dr. Abu-Marzuq will add to the Arab and Moslem anger that is raging against the U.S. hostile policies," read the statement in English telefaxed to AFP in Jerusalem from abroad. "Hamas is following the situation closely and will take the necessary measures in the light of developments," it threatened.

The group, outlawed in the United States, claimed responsibility in an anonymous telephone call for a suicide bus bombing on Monday that killed six Israelis and wounded 32 in Tel Aviv. Hamas also killed 22 people on a Tel Aviv bus on October 19 last year.

The statement added that Hamas, "has never harmed the interests of the United States of America, and has confined its struggle against the Zionist enemy and its brutal machine to Palestinian territory."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

U.S. To Grant PA $40 Million Over 5 Years

JN2807073895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 28 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Under the patronage and in the presence of President Yasir 'Arafat an agreement was signed last night between the National Authority [Palestinian Authority, PA] and the United States. According to the agreement, the United States will extend $40 million over five years for the treatment of waste water and sewage. The agreement was signed for the Palestinian side by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, and for the United States by U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk. [passage omitted]

'Arafat: Part of Golan Belongs to Palestinians

AU2607205095 Paris AFP in English 2028 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris, July 26 (AFP) — PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat said here Wednesday [26 July] that part of the Golan Heights belongs to the Palestinians because Syria offered it to them 30 years ago to help set up an independent state.

"Don't forget that a parcel of the Golan is Palestinian," he told journalists after a meeting with French President Jacques Chirac. "At the Alexandria (Egypt) summit of 1964, the Syrians made a gift of it to Ahmad Shukeiri (former PLO chief) so that he could set up his Palestinian state there," 'Arafat added. He referred to area of Himmah "and its surroundings."

The PLO is demanding the return of part of the Golan to help in their negotiations with Israel over water-sharing rights, a senior Palestinian official said Monday. PLO official Faysal al-Husayni told journalists: "We are not talking only about a small area, but rather about a place that could give us rights in water-sharing" with Israel.

The return of the area dubbed the "Palestinian Golan" on the heights, which have been occupied by Israel since 1967, would give them access to the waters of the Jordan River, he said.

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on Saturday said: "The Palestinians have announced that part of the Golan is called Palestinian Golan and there are differences with Syria over this."

The Golan, which Israel seized from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war, is at the centre of peace talks between the two countries. Damascus insists on a full Israeli withdrawal from the strategic heights.

Fatah Aide Criticizes 'Palestinian Golan' Remarks

MM2807130395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Jul 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Fatah Official Criticizes Raising Question of 'Palestinian Golan'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Fatah Central Committee Member 'Abbas Zaki has criticized the recent statement made by Faysal al-Husayni in Jordan stressing that the Palestinians had a right to regain the Palestinian territory in the Syrian Golan region known as "Palestinian al—Himmah." In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, he said that raising such an issue now is part of the Israeli game to create more Arab contradictions and take the battle out of its real context to turn it into a secondary conflict.

Zaki stressed that the Syrian position on the peace process was the best way of dealing with the issue on the basis of capabilities and the elements of caution and desire to prevent any loss. 'Abbas Zaki said that the Syrian view, confirmed by the Syrians every day, is that there should be full Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied after 4 June 1967 and that Syria rejects a return to international borders [as published] and rejects any bargaining or barter in this connection, and that means liberation of Palestinian territory because Syria is capable of achieving that, and any Palestinian territory it holds would be a trust which Syria would give back as soon as the Palestinians get sovereignty. On the same issue, Zaki said that even if Syria did not return these Palestinian territories on the basis of its belief in one nation and one cause, it would be a Palestinian victory either way. Zaki emphasized that discussing any issue in tempo with the Israeli line, without benefit to anyone and without national advantage, would be rejected. He added: Before creating problems regarding Jerusalem and the Palestinian villages in Syria, we should gear all our efforts towards rejecting settlements and preventing what is now taking place in the settlement of Efrat (Tallat al—Zayt) in Bethlehem.

Fatah Aide Sees 'Temporary Truce,' Not Peace

MM2507125995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Jul 95 p 7

[Unattributed report: "Fatah Official: What Is Taking Place Is Not Peace But a Temporary Truce Which Will Not Last"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Fatah Central Committee Member Muhammad Jihad has affirmed that the Declaration of Principles signed by the PLO and Israel will produce

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

nothing more than autonomy within Israel. What is taking place now, he said, is a temporary truce which will not last in the region, not peace as some people claim.

Muhammad Jihad, who is opposed to the Oslo agreement, called for the suspension of the negotiations with Israel. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL—AWSAT, he said that would be a thousand times better than continuing the negotiations under the cover of which detainees continue to be held and more strugglers are arrested, land expropriated, and settlements beefed up.

Muhammad Jihad said that the second phase on which the negotiations are being held is nothing but an implementation of the five points announced by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to the Israeli Knesset on 31 August 1993 when it was considering ratification of the Oslo agreement, points to which he has adhered to this day and in which he spelled out Israel's strategy regarding that agreement. These points are:

1. No return to the 1967 borders.

2. The security settlements will remain.
3. Unified Jerusalem is Israel's eternal capital.
4. The River Jordan is Israel's eastern border.
5. The Israeli Army will have security sovereignty over the West Bank.

Muhammad Jihad said that the second phase on which the negotiations are taking place is something akin to leaving a city but staying at its gates. He referred to Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' assertion that the Israeli Army would have checkpoints on the West Bank's main roads for inspection and scrutiny.

Fatah's military official added: The new agreement provides for the redeployment of the Israeli army out of only four cities with the fate of Hebron postponed and with the Israeli army staying there. Furthermore, that agreement will shift the Palestinian people's administrative burden from Israel's shoulders to the shoulders of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] but Israel will retain sovereignty over the territory. That is in addition to the water issue which has become a security issue. Israel, which had been stealing 80 percent of the water, now wants to take the rest.

Muhammad Jihad reaffirmed again that what is currently taking place is a temporary truce in the region not peace as some people claim because the agreement does not tackle issues which are essential for the Palestinians and only deals with superficial matters. He added that the international community and the big powers drowned the Palestinian Authority [PA] in rosy dreams giving it the impression that the Declaration of Principles would result in a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, but in reality that turned out to be a mirage. The World Bank and the donor states also let the PA think that the autonomy area would become the Hong Kong of the Middle East but what happened was exactly the opposite with the economic situation deteriorating further and living conditions becoming very difficult. That, he said, is what we have reaped from the Oslo agreement so far.

Muhammad Jihad accused the current leadership of making concessions. He asked: "Has there been a leadership in history which ceded four-fifths of its homeland's territory (the 1948 territory) in addition to abandoning two-thirds of its people, and is now bargaining over the remaining fifth of its homeland (the West Bank and Gaza)? [no closing quotemarks as published]

Muhammad Jihad emphasized that the Palestinian revolution was launched on the basis of repatriation rights. He asked: Is repatriation now confined to a few thousand policemen, with 3.5 million Palestinians remaining in the diaspora?

He said that the Palestinian masses are now aware of the dimensions of the agreement and realize that it does not even fulfill the minimum Palestinian rights. He noted that the support for the Oslo agreement has greatly diminished, the evidence being the recent uprising in the West Bank in solidarity with the Palestinian detainees and against settlement.

He added that the failure to release the Palestinian detainees, who are considered to be POW's, unconditionally provided the best proof that Israel does not want peace and is not interested in turning over a new leaf.

He said that the U.S. sponsor is not playing any positive part and only sided with the Israeli entity to enable it to impose its terms on the Arab region.

Muhammad Jihad stressed that the current line of the peace process would not lead to anything and will result in an explosion in the region.

He gave the prerequisites for just peace in the region, saying that it can only be achieved if the following three conditions are met: Establishment of a Palestinian state, withdrawal from the occupied Syrian territory to the pre-4 June lines, and withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

Muhammad Jihad added that the Palestinian opposition has so far been unable to develop itself and cannot agree on a minimum course of action and that Hamas is waiting for the deadline given to it. He did express the belief, however, that after 25 July all the Palestinian people will act because the Israeli deception has been

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

exposed and the Palestinian people have no option but to continue the struggle for their legitimate rights.

Paper Blames 'Israeli Policy' for Violent Acts

TA2607153595 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 25 Jul 95 pp 8, 7

[Editorial: "Let Us Stop Self-Flagellation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Acts of violence aimed at innocent people by any party are rejected and cannot be condoned by logic and wisdom. If we condemn those acts, in return we repudiate what the Israelis do after every incident whether on the popular or official levels. On the popular level we hear strange voices against the Palestinians and the peace process. On the official level a closure is imposed on the West Bank and Gaza Strip in a way that does not serve the cause of peace but punishes the Palestinian people without exception.

This is despite the fact that Israel's leaders acknowledge that the Palestinians are doing all they can to stop acts of violence and that they have actually prevented many such acts since assuming power in Gaza and Jericho. What should the Palestinians do to satisfy the Israelis? Israel and the Palestinians have lived through decades of violence. Despite its occupation, Israel could not stop armed operations. Now it is demanding from the Palestinians to control the situation quickly and prevent all operations. This is an impossible demand, because the Authority cannot station a policeman alongside every citizen. On the other hand, the deteriorating economic situation, which creates despair and frustration, is one of the most important factors that pushes youths to perpetrate acts of violence when they realize that they have nothing to lose. We are not saying this to justify acts of violence but to clarify that Israeli policy toward the Palestinians lacks a great deal of far-sightedness.

More than 160,000 Palestinian laborers used to work in Israel before the Palestinian Authority [PA] took over power. In one stroke of the pen this army of laborers became jobless. Their families, who are being threatened by starvation, are without any income. Israel hastened to prevent those laborers from obtaining a livelihood, replaced them with workers from Thailand and Romania, and left this burden to the PA, which is at the beginning of the road. After all this, the Israeli Government and people demand from the PA to prevent acts of violence while fully realizing that, willingly or unwillingly, they have contributed to the deterioration of the situation.

One must ask: Do blockades and the siege imposed on the Palestinians stop acts of violence? We posed this question because acts of violence cannot be controlled unless the Palestinians feel that the peace press is bearing fruit and that they have begun to harvest the fruit of peace. However, if their condition and daily lives deteriorate and we ask them to stop acts of violence, that does not conform with the most elementary rules of the political game.

We support the cessation of acts of violence, but when the Israeli Government decides to suspend the talks with the Palestinians who benefits from this measure? Clearly, the extremists on both sides have achieved their goals. Is this what the Israeli Government is seeking? Let us stop self-flagellation after every incident as if we deserve this humiliation.

Senior Hamas Activist Freed, Others in Prison

TA2807130995 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Jul 95 p A4

[Report by 'Amira Hess]

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Ahmad Nimr, a senior Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader, was yesterday released after four months incarceration in a Palestinian prison. Nimr, a resident of the Khan Yunus refugee camp, was detained immediately after the Kefar Darom and Netzarim attacks on 9 April. In contrast to other Hamas activists, who were released after signing a commitment not to be involved in Hamas activity, Nimr refused to sign and was consequently transferred from the Khan Yunus detention facility to the Gaza prison.

Many people came to greet Nimr upon his release yesterday. He told journalists that he was freed without signing any statement, adding he was mainly interrogated about the tense relations between Hamas and Fatah prior to the Palestinian Authority's establishment.

Several dozen (it is not clear exactly how many) Hamas activists, as well as senior Islamic opposition officials, are still in prison. Among them are Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, Shaykh Ahmad Bahr, and Muhsin Abu-'Aytah.

Sources in Khan Yunus deny reports by Israeli security sources that members of the al-Najjar family have been detained after the Ramat Gan attack. Al-Najjar is one of the biggest c!ans in the city.

Hamas Report on Student Election Success

95AA0199A London FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH in Arabic Jul 95 pp 14-15

[Unattributed article: "Season for Student Elections in the Occupied Land: Proportional Representation Changes Rules of Game, Shatters Monopoly of Major Blocs; Failure of Settlement Effort on the Ground Causes Drop in Number of Settlement Supporters;

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Islamists Make Steady Progress, Tighten Their Hold on Traditional Positions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Student elections that are conducted every year in scores of institutions of higher learning in the occupied land have always been important because of their implications and the significance of their outcome. They reflect not only what is happening in Palestinian society but also the characteristics of the general political, social, and economic mood in society vis-a-vis new developments and conditions on the ground. Furthermore, Palestinian universities and institutions of higher learning, most of which were established under the authority of the military occupation, are among the most important institutions involved in the Palestinian struggle against the occupation. In them people can talk about usurped civil and political rights, foremost among which are those that have to do with the freedom to express oneself politically, the freedom to have trade union and professional representation, and the freedom to practice democracy in general. The fact that people could talk about those rights and freedoms in the universities and institutions of learning constituted a unique form of resistance to the occupation as well as a challenge to its tyranny and might. Consequently, such academic institutions that are involved in the struggle remain to this day authentic and cherished players in the struggle that involves Palestinian society. Because for so long they embraced many honorable people who struggled and fought for the cause, these universities and institutions of higher learning are monuments to the Palestinians' struggle. They never failed to be at the forefront of uprisings and revolutions, standing up to their earliest sparks and providing powerful examples of heroism and sacrifice.

On the basis of all this, the election season for Palestinian students has been something that average Palestinians, the military occupation authority, and observers from all over the world have always paid attention to. Results of these elections were often reviewed, analyzed, examined, and scrutinized. It was natural, therefore, that elections at universities became more important when the course of the Palestinian cause changed sharply. That change started with the pursuit of a peaceful settlement, and it continued with the proclamation of the Oslo Agreement and other such matters. During the past two years, specifically, interpretations of these elections, as set forth by different politicians and observers, introduced and highlighted numerous factors and boundary lines.

During the past two months, roughly speaking, six student elections were held in different educational institutions. These include Bir Zayt, Bethlehem, and al-Najah universities and three other different educational institutions.

Bir Zayt and the Proportional Representation Experiment

In this year's elections at Bir Zayt University, held last 24 May, the system of proportional representation was introduced for the first time in the history of the Palestinian students' movement. In this system in which students elect a general students' congress of 51 seats, each student would vote for an entire bloc and a specific philosophy, and the blocs participating in the election would divide those seats according to how they fared with the voters and the number of votes they received of the total number of ballots cast. The bloc that wins the largest number of seats in the congress would be given one week to 10 days to form a coalition of 11 students who would serve on the Student Council. In this year's elections, seven student blocs participated on this basis, and the 51 seats were distributed among them in the following manner:

There was a slight decline this year in the number of ballots cast. In last year's elections, 94.7 percent of the students who were entitled to vote cast ballots; this year, 85.2 percent of the total number of students who are entitled to vote, 2,798 students, cast ballots. Last year's elections created quite a stir because they were the first elections to be held after the Oslo Agreement was signed. In those elections one bloc in the coalition of opposition parties won all nine seats on the Student Council. It may be said that the final outcome of this year's elections showed no concrete change. All together, the opposition blocs won 27 of the 51 seats in the congress, even though the fact that the Islamic Bloc by itself won 18 seats is considered progress among Hamas supporters on the university campus, a prominent bastion of support for the Fatah Movement and Yasir 'Arafat. It is to be noted that this year the election programs of the blocs placed considerable emphasis on the Oslo-Cairo agreements and their outcome. They also placed emphasis on what was happening in Jerusalem and on the settlement issue as well as on developments in the autonomous areas. To the Israeli enemy the election results were a harsh blow to supporters of the Oslo Agreement. Israelis expressed their fear that the self-rule elections, which have been the subject of negotiations for several months, could reflect the results of the students' elections. But the negative side of the election results was downplayed by Fatah figures, when Marawan al-Barghuthi, secretary of Fatah's Supreme Action Committee in the West Bank, characterized the outcome of the Bir Zayt University elections. "These elections are neither a blow to the supporters of peace,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

nor do they necessarily reflect a true picture of what is happening among mainstream Palestinians."

Significant Success for Hamas and Islamic Jihad

The Islamic Palestine Bloc, which is made up of a coalition of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, managed to achieve a major victory in the elections that were held in al-Najah National University. There, elections were postponed for two weeks because the university, following the lead of Bir Zayt University, adopted the proportional representation system for the first time. The victory achieved by the Islamic Palestine Bloc meant that out of the 81 seats in the General Congress 78 seats would be shared with the pro-Fatah Martyrs' Bloc. While the three remaining seats went to the pro-PFLP [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine] Jerusalem Bloc, supporters of Hamas and al-Jihad in the university were expecting a bigger victory with the failure of pro-DFLP [Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine] blocs, of the People's Party and of Fida to gain any seats. But that victory eluded them when occupation authorities arrested approximately 300 Hamas supporters in the university and prevented 70 other pro-Hamas students from the Gaza Strip from participating in the elections. While Islamists considered the outcome of the elections another political defeat for the Oslo-Cairo agreements, many supporters of Fatah attributed the relative loss they sustained to what they called organizational corruption among supporters of the movement in the university and to the fact that previous student councils led by them had failed to achieve anything for students. It is expected that an administrative board will be made up of an equal number of people from Hamas and Islamic Jihad on one side and Fatah on the other.

Nothing New Among Students in Bethlehem

Elections at Bethlehem University, which were held on 24 May, the same day elections at Bir Zayt University were held, produced no significant changes in the distribution of students. The Fatah Movement (the Youth Group) and the People's Party coalition bloc won all the seats, but their opponents from the Islamic Action Bloc (Hamas), the National and Democratic Bloc, and the PFLP and DFLP coalition won none. While Fatah and the People's Party Bloc won the presidency of three student clubs, the Islamic Bloc won the presidency of one student club, and the National and Democratic Bloc also won the presidency of one student club. A total of 77.3 percent of those who are entitled to vote cast ballots, and that is the lowest percentage of participation in the history of university elections since they were established in 1973.

Islamic Bloc Wins Three Different Positions

And yet, Islamic blocs won all the seats in three student elections. In the elections that were held on Tuesday, 23 May, in the College of Science and Technology at Jerusalem University (Abu Days), the Islamic Bloc (the Martyr Zuhayr Faraj Bloc) won all nine seats in the administrative board of the college's student council. But the Jerusalem Is Ours Bloc, the Islamic Bloc's competition that is close to Fatah, received no seats. The Islamic Bloc, which represents the traditional alliance between Hamas and Islamic Jihad, received approximately two-thirds of the vote in an election in which only 82 percent of those who could vote did.

At the Girls' College of Literature in Ramallah, the al-Rabat !! Bloc, which represents the Islamic Bloc, won the nine seats on the Student Council. At the College of Medical Professions in al-Bayrah, the Islamic Bloc (the Martyr Salah Jadallah Bloc) also won the nine seats on the Student Council for the third time in a row. In those elections that were held on Wednesday, 24 May, 54 percent of the 157 ballots that were cast went to the Islamic Bloc. Only 85.3 percent of those eligible to vote participated in the elections.

A Quick Reading of Election Results

The following observations can be made upon reviewing the foregoing election results:

- 1. The use of a proportional representation system, as was the case in Bir Zayt University and al-Najah University, enhanced opportunities of victory for those blocs that had always come second and received the second largest majority of votes: the Islamic blocs, in particular, followed by the leftist blocs. Thus, the monopoly of these blocs, which usually received a slim majority under the previous election system, was shattered by the proportional representation system. Accordingly, proportional representation was supported by almost all the blocs everywhere because they know that, although they may suffer setbacks in some locations as a result of the application of this system, they will inevitably benefit in other locations.

%2. Implementing the system of proportional representation played a part in changing the balances of power and the rules of the game in many of the elections. What happened in Bir Zayt University provides an example. After receiving eight seats, the PFLP was able to manipulate the major blocs that needed the front to form a coalition that would preclude the formation of another coalition by the two major blocs, Fatah and Hamas. Rejecting all lucrative offers from Hamas and Fatah, the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

PFLP refused to adhere to its political opposition to the Oslo Agreement because of its internal problems. Furthermore, its leaders inside the country were connected to the Self-Rule Authority via some secret channels. Thus, after numerous discussions, a coalition representing the congress was formed, and Fatah received five seats during that process; Hamas, four; and the PFLP, two. The other blocs were excluded because of their failure to receive the required percentage of votes to gain seats in the congress. And yet, the majority in the congress continued to favor the opposition blocs (six to five) even though the Student Council could have been made up of Hamas and DFLP if the PFLP had been willing to cooperate.

%What happened in al-Najah University was similar. There, student council seats were divided between the Islamic Bloc and the Fatah Bloc, and that was a development unprecedented in the history of a university that is considered the PLO's university.

%3. The election results indicate in general that support for the settlement is diminishing while support for those who oppose the agreements is growing. Given the real regression in the settlement process and Israel's tyrannical practices, this is quite normal. Furthermore, there is Israel's settlement and Judaization policy in Jerusalem and the West Bank. In addition, conditions for detainees in the occupation authority's prisons are deteriorating, and living conditions in the self-rule areas are also deteriorating.

%4. For Israel, that in itself justifies its concerns regarding the outcome of elections in the autonomous areas. The opposition's participation in those elections, if the opposition were to take part in them, is another cause for concern, given the opposition's control over other student, professional, and trade union associations. Such concerns could strengthen the point of view in Israel that favors delaying the elections or even interfering in their nature and the terms under which they will be conducted to guarantee that Fatah or supporters of the agreements would remain in control and in power. And that too is tempting Palestinians who are in power to continue showing their preference to appointing people in organizations and municipalities instead of having them elected to office.

%5. The frustration felt by the Palestinian people is manifested in a decline in voter participation in the strongholds of pro-Fatah and prosettlement groups. It is also manifested in the relative gains made by anti-Fatah and antisettlement groups in those same strongholds. In addition, the Palestinian people's frustration is also attributed to the fact that Islamists have continued to exert tight and traditional control in other locations. These are all indications that Palestinians have lost their sense of hope and optimism and that they feel frustrated. Confirmation of that came from more than one Palestinian figure. Dr. 'Abd-al-Sattar Qasim, a political science lecturer at al-Najah National University, says, "The frustration of the Palestinian people is severe, and their bitterness is evident on their faces. They have nothing to be optimistic about." He adds, "Israeli repression throughout the past years is weighing heavily on average Palestinians who woke up from their delusion to find out that, while their living and daily conditions have grown worse, they were getting nothing in return for relinquishing their dream and their homeland."

Hamas Report: PA Attacks Gaza Mosques

95AA0199B London FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH in Arabic Jul 95 p 21

[Unattributed article: "Palestinian Affairs: 138 Attacks Against Gaza Strip Mosques in One Month; Self-Rule Authority Has the Lion's Share of Mosque Attacks"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An Islamic organization concerned with the affairs of defending mosques in Palestine reviewed the extensive violations of houses of worship that were perpetrated by the self-rule authority [Palestine Authority, PA] since it came to power.

In its published memorandum, the Committee for Defending Mosques in Palestine listed a detailed record of these violations. The memorandum stated, "Mosques have always been a target of the Israeli colonialists' repression. Mosques have been closed at times—they are still being closed—and they have also been subjected to demolition at other times. No mosque in Palestine has escaped the break-ins, desecration, and vandalism that took place in planned operations. Mosques and the worshipers who frequent them have been witnesses to many massacres."

The memorandum went on to state, "When the self-rule authority came to the Gaza Strip, Palestinians thought that Gaza's mosques, which had always been targeted by various enemies, would be safe from such attacks. And yet, within one year of its presence in the Gaza Strip, the authority's record of violations and attacks carried out by security personnel against mosques and the prayer leaders of those mosques was becoming extensive. These attacks, carried out under the pretext of flimsy excuses and justifications, were conducted in a manner that shows deep-rooted feelings of hatred and malice for the houses of worship. Such feelings did not differ much from those feelings of hatred and malice that were manifested by the Zionist colonialists."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

A detailed and precise record of these violations committed by the self-rule authority against mosques in the Gaza Strip follows.

First, Official Decrees

1. On 30 May 1994, Col. Isma'il al-Shafi'i, commander of Palestinian Security for the eastern zone of the Gaza Strip, issued a general directive to officials and prayer leaders of mosques in the eastern zone. He indicated in that directive, "Out of concern for the public interest, we are issuing this directive to let you know that, because we want to strengthen national unity among individuals who are members of our great nation, we are asking for your cooperation in the following matters:

- "A. An effort is to be made to avoid involving mosques in the eastern zone in the verbal warfare that is taking place in the media. Mosques are not to be used to promote and publicize matters that might be harmful and useless.

%"B. We hope that no statements made by any Palestinian party whatsoever will be published or broadcast and that security command will be the only medium through which such statements can be published or broadcast. All such requests are to be forwarded to the Security Command in the eastern zone.

%"C. This directive goes into effect as of 1 June 1994."

2. On 16 April 1995, Brig. Gen. Ghazi al-Jibali, general commissioner of police in the self-rule area, issued a general directive in which he indicated that, "The Council of Ministers (the council of the Authority), which met on 8 April 1995, decreed that all attempts to use mosques and their pulpits to incite and provoke civil strife shall be brought to an end and all newsletters posted in some mosques shall be removed. This decree stems from the fact that mosques are for everybody, and using mosques for such purposes violates the provisions of our True Islamic religion."

3. On 15 May 1995, Brig. Gen. Ghazi al-Jibali, general commissioner of police in the self-rule area, issued a general directive to prayer leaders and mosque custodians instructing them to close the mosques immediately after prayer services and to permit no one to enter a mosque after a prayer service is concluded. He instructed them to remove any newsletters or posters that are posted in the mosques, and he told them that they would be held responsible for any slogans or posters found on the walls of mosques.

4. In its issue of 2 February 1995, the Arabic newspaper, AL-HAYAH, which is published in London, exposed a secret plan that had been adopted by the self-rule authority to confront Hamas. The newspaper reported that, "Due to the religious nature of the matter, driving Hamas out of the mosques and neutralizing the movement is not possible. The solution is for the Authority to have a presence in the mosque, which equals or is greater than that of Hamas. The Authority is to advocate that emphasis be placed on encouraging believers from all political forces and factions to use mosques for making political propaganda and political speeches. Mosques should be used by all forces as areas where popular meetings can be held and political action carried out. This would be particularly appropriate since suitable meeting rooms are lacking in many areas. Consequently, believers would not be regarded as members of one political class."

Second, the Massacre at the Palestine Mosque

This massacre is considered one of the most brutal crimes committed by policemen of the self-rule authority in a house of worship. Twelve Palestinians lost their lives, and 200 were wounded in that massacre.

Third, the Raids

After the self-rule authority issued its general directive on mosques, the police started an organized campaign of raids against the mosques. Approximately 57 mosques in all parts of the Gaza Strip were raided during the period between 19 April and 19 May 1995. Most of these mosques were raided, searched, vandalized, and defaced more than once in one month. Mosques were subjected to a total number of 138 raids.

Fourth, Prayer Leaders and Clerics Who Deliver Sermons Arrested

Many mosque prayer leaders and clerics who deliver sermons in Gaza's mosques were arrested and held by the self-rule authority for several months. While a large number of religious figures were prevented from delivering the Friday sermon, others were harassed and their homes raided and searched. Shaykh Muhammad Taha, Shaykh Radwan al-Nakhalah, Shaykh Fathi Musa, Shaykh Salamah al-Safadi, Shaykh Muhammad Sham'ah, and Shaykh Ahmad Nimr are among those who were subjected to such treatment.

Fifth, Palestinian Intelligence Recruits Agents To Spy on Mosques

Palestinian intelligence agencies have recently sprung into action and intensified their efforts in monitoring mosques. For this reason they expanded their presence in the mosques and on their rooftops as well and recruited former agents who had served during the occupation. Their aim was to get a list of names of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

all the young men who frequent the mosques. They wanted to know the affiliations of these young men and to whom they give their support. It has been confirmed that intelligence and security agencies are now involved in setting up files for those young men containing information about their activities. The information in those files will be used to justify having them arrested and put on trial.

Operations during which young children who frequent the mosques were recruited have been monitored. The children were offered financial incentives and recruited as agents to spy for the intelligence agency. It turned out that such operations are on the increase. Palestinian intelligence offered a 15-year-old Palestinian youth, whose initials are Mim Nun Hah and who resides in Jabaliya Camp, $100 a month for watching the young men who frequent one of the mosques in the camp. In addition, they asked him to gather information on specific individuals. Another young man was asked to infiltrate the ranks of Islamic Jihad and report information about his colleagues regularly.

It has been proven that the press conference that was held by policemen last February was a sham. At that press conference the policemen brought forward youths who admitted that activists from Islamic Jihad had demanded that they carry out a suicide operation. It turned out that two intelligence officers, Capt. Shin Lam Sin and Maj. 'Ayn Sin Ra', [initials as transliterated] had pressed the two youths and forced them to state this information in front of journalists against their will. They wanted to show the journalists that the administration of the self-rule authority can foil suicide operations against Israeli military sites that start out from the self-rule areas.

First Palestinian Plane Overflies Gaza Strip

JN2707110395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Palestinian plane piloted by a Palestinian crew overflew the Gaza Strip for the first time in the history of Palestine this morning. Palestinian citizens expressed joy as they watched the plane, which bore a Palestinian flag, hoping that Palestinian airplanes would soon be able to overfly the holy city of Jerusalem, the capital of the Palestinian state.

Orient House Calls For Disarming of Settlers

JN2607193395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement issued this evening, Orient House asserted that it will continue to play its role in the peace process until the achievement of a lasting, just, and comprehensive peace.

Orient House warned against the dangers of settlers bearing arms, and called for disarming them to avert a worsening of the situation, which could lead to unfavorable consequences.

In another statement, Orient House denied reports published in the newspaper AL-QUDS today to the effect that the management of the Saint Joseph Hospital, located in the al-Shaykh Jarrah neighborhood, closed down the hospital until further notice. The statement added that Orient House, which is following up the issue of the Saint Joseph Hospital, would like to confirm that the report is groundless, particularly since the hospital has continued to render the necessary medical services and treatment to patients.

Security Chief Yusuf on Extremism, Settlements

MM2707085195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Jul 95 p 3

[Report on interview with Major General Nasr Yusuf, Palestinian chief of Public Security, by unidentified correspondent on 23 July in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza — Chief of Palestinian Public Security Major General Nasr Yusuf has affirmed that extremism and the settlements are the most important problems facing the Palestinian Authority. He declared that the Palestinian police are ready to assume their tasks in the West Bank as soon as agreement is reached on the question of the redeployment of the Israeli Army. He admitted that certain transgressions have been committed in dealing with leaders of the detained Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement leaders at the hands of the Authority, but he denied that there was any systematic torture.

Major General Yusuf was speaking during an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in the evening of the day before yesterday [23 July], prior to the armed operation which took place in Tel Aviv and involved the blowing up of a bus and the killing and wounding of a number of people.

Replying to a question about the state of readiness of the Palestinian police to assume their tasks in the West Bank, Major General Yusuf said: "As a security institution, we are prepared to assume tasks in the West Bank at any time. We have taken control of the situation in Gaza under more difficult conditions than those prevailing now. We now have better material and human capabilities than previously. As regards operation

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and experience, we are also in better condition and undoubtedly we are prepared to assume responsibility for security affairs in the West Bank."

As to what has been agreed as regards bringing in additional Palestinian police from abroad to participate in shouldering security tasks in the West Bank following agreement on this, Major General Yusuf said: The number of Palestinian police in the West Bank was the subject of negotiations with the Israelis. However, it was agreed in principle that the list of Palestinian police should include 2,000 persons to be brought from abroad. There is yet another list consisting of 3,000 persons now in the process of being approved. But from a practical point of view, there are enough Palestinian policemen to assume preliminary tasks.

Major General Yusuf said the most important problems facing Palestinian security at present in Gaza undoubtedly lie in extremism and what ensues from it, in addition to the Israeli settlements which have been having a negative effect on people's lives from different viewpoints.

With regard to the people's living conditions and their link with crime, Major General Yusuf said: "The people's lives are not easy, though conditions have slightly improved, thanks to the resumption of the movement of workers between the Gaza Strip and Israel. There are also some work opportunities through local economic activity.

"A connection has been observed between the escalation of acts of crime and the deterioration of economic conditions. Whenever the movement of workers comes to a halt, crime increases. But the most important problem actually lies in the settlements and their effect on people's lives and extremism and its by-products."

With regard to what is being said about the torturing of the Hamas Movement leaders, the periodic shaving of their beards in the central prison, and their being beaten with electric cables, the Chief of Palestinian Public Security said: "In my estimation, there is no torture, though there are instances of transgressions. There might be some cases of ill-treatment but there is no torture.

"These cases of transgression and ill- treatment are individual cases. But we, as an official security institution, are keen to ensure that no such acts are committed. However, our conditions are not easy in terms of ability and efficiency in this respect. We keep sending out instructions continually asking that no such acts of transgression should take place. As to the shaving of beards, only four people had their beards shaved, three of whom were Hamas leaders while the fourth was a former member of the Jihad Movement. In fact, we are disappointed because of what has happened and are trying to curb such acts." Major General Yusuf affirmed that the shaving of beards was carried out only once.

A Hamas Movement spokesman had announced in Jordan that three Hamas leaders, namely, Shaykh Sayyid Abu Samih, Shaykh Ahmad Bahr, and Shaykh Mahmud al—Zahhar, were being subjected to torture and that "elements of the intelligence department have been weekly shaving the beard of Shaykh Sayyid Abu Samih."

It is recalled that the intelligence department was one of the five Palestinian security mechanisms that were set up in the autonomous rule areas.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT asked Major General Yusuf about the charges leveled against the Hamas leaders that led to their detention. He replied: Detention takes places as a result of acts of instigation. We are not against policies but against instigation and the call for extremism. He affirmed that talks were taking place between Hamas and the Authority and that views were exchanged between the two sides. He added: Following the detentions, a certain apathy set in and the talks came to a standstill, but we hope they will resume at some later date. Asked when the detainees will be referred to courts, he replied: This matter does not fall within the jurisdiction of the public security department.

Asked what a Palestinian policeman would do should a settler open fire on him in the future in the West Bank, particularly as the leaders of the settlements in the West Bank have threatened to kill Palestinian policemen on the roads, Major General Yusuf said: Despite what they say, I do not think the settlers will open fire, for that would not be easy because we consider the Israeli Army responsible in the final analysis. The opening of fire on a Palestinian policeman will be considered in the end as though it were an Israeli soldier who opened fire. Hence the matter is not so easy despite the blustering on the part of the settlers at present prior to the signing of the agreements [on policing affairs]. The responsibility will rest first and last with Israel, since the settlements are situated in the territories under their responsibility.

He added: The inhabitants of the Gaza Strip settlements are presumed to "have witnessed how we work for providing security to all. Gaza's experience in this regard is important and has been successful and they are aware of this. I believe that the settlers in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank have common qualities and they think alike."

Major General Yusuf expressed his satisfaction at the effect of his recent visit to the city of Janin in the oc-

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

cupied West Bank, saying: The people are anxiously looking forward to the return of the Palestinian Authority and the withdrawal of the occupation.

Asked how he envisages the future stage in the West Bank and the prospects for a solution, Major General Yusuf said: We have before us one or two years of severe difficulties, we will work to overcome this stage, and undoubtedly we will secure the departure of the Israeli Army from the West Bank.

Major General Yusuf now occupies the post of Chief of Public Security in the Strip and the Bank. But this does not mean that no security commander will be appointed in the West Bank, though most likely the matter will be a central one. This matter is being discussed within the Palestinian framework and has nothing to do with the negotiations, as Major General Yusuf himself affirmed.

Fatah Higher Committee Meets in Ramallah

JN2707195095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Fatah Movement's Higher Committee held a meeting in Ramallah today with the participation of Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin, member of the Fatah Central Committee, and Marwan al-Barguthi, secretary of the Committee. The meeting addressed the latest developments of the Palestinian- Israeli negotiations and a number of political and organizational issues.

Mahmud 'Abbas discussed the obstacles to reaching an agreement on redeployment, including the legislative elections, particularly concerning the residents of the holy city. He also discussed the water issue and the redeployment of the Israeli occupation army.

Marwan al-Barguthi discussed the current political situation. He said Israel should comply with the agreement. He also stressed the role of the Fatah Movement which has proved itself for many years. Al-Barguthi added that the Fatah Central Committee, the PLO Executive Committee, and the Revolutionary Council will hold intensive meetings in the next few days.

'Ashrawi on Possible Run for Council Seat

AU2607144095 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU in German 26 Jul 95 p 7

[Interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi, PICCR founder and former secretary general, by Armin Wertz in Jerusalem "before the bomb attack on a bus in Tel Aviv": "The Arabs Also Want Democracies"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Wertz] What does the latest news mean? It sounded as if you wanted to leave the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens Rights, PICCR, which you founded?

['Ashrawi] No, I am still very committed to its goals and its work.

[Wertz] But you resigned as secretary general!

['Ashrawi] Yes, I insisted that we stick to our own statute and to the democratic rules. Therefore, I vacated my post. According to the statutes, the change was imminent anyway. Furthermore, this work calls for complete dedication. I spent one and a half years on that. However, I also have other things to do. I will remain in the Executive Committee though. My work in the PICCR required almost 24 hours every day. I try to spend more time with my daughters and my family now. In addition, I want to dedicate more time to women's affairs again. And I want to write more again.

[Wertz] Poetry?

['Ashrawi] I am just writing a novel. I work on it until two or three o'clock in the morning. It is the story of a family in a Palestinian village. It deals with family relations, the obsession with virility, the dilemma of women in our traditions, and the transformation of women over the past years, where so much has changed. The story, the plots, the characters, and the motives already exist. But I have only written a few chapters. I hope to finish it by the end of the year.

[Wertz] Will your, at least partial, withdrawal not damage the PICCR's work?

['Ashrawi] Not at all. I did this work during the period of preparation and establishment. Now it is an institution. We have a structure, statutes, a legal basis, credibility, and independence. This does not depend on just one person.

[Wertz] You have an international reputation. As a result, you can probably exert greater influence on developments in the system of the Palestinian National Administration (PNA) than people who are less well known?

['Ashrawi] Yes, and we have openly used my popularity to be able to found the PICCR. Now this institution must also work as an institution.

[Wertz] In the winter, elections are to be held for a Palestinian Council. Will you run?

['Ashrawi] This depends on a few things, but I am trying to convince everyone — regardless of his political opinion — to run for the elections so that we really have a representative institution.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Wertz] In the past, you rejected an office in the Palestinian autonomy administration.

['Ashrawi] Yes, but this will be a legislative assembly, a parliament.

[Wertz] The Israelis oppose a Palestinian representation with legislative power.

['Ashrawi] This is our view, and it will be like that. I do not think the Israelis have the right to interfere with our elections. This is a Palestinian matter. If we want to have a democratic system, we need a division of power, and therefore we need elections. After all, no one told the Israelis how to establish their system.

[Wertz] Do you think the democracy has good prospects?

['Ashrawi] We must work on it. There are a number of problems; some come from the Israeli occupation, others result from our traditions, from the lack of a really free press, since most of our press still depends on a specific party and is often also threatened by PNA censorship. And, of course, there are also technical problems in connections with the voters' lists, etc.

[Wertz] Are the members of the PNA, above all Yasir 'Arafat, really interested in a democratic system?

['Ashrawi] This is not a question of individual preferences. The people want it and we must heed that. We must struggle for it. If there are a few who do not like democracy, that is their problem, but they will not be able to prevent it.

[Wertz] In June Amnesty International published a devastating report, accusing the Palestinian State Security Court of regularly violating all international standards of fair trial.

['Ashrawi] We tried to prevent bad things, but we were unsuccessful. Therefore, we went public and stated very clearly that we are basically opposed to these kind of courts and their way of working: Defense is considerably restricted, one cannot appeal the verdict, trials take place at night, and they are closed to the public.

[Wertz] What is the situation like in other fields?

['Ashrawi] There we have been able to exert influence. When we started our work, we observed systematic violations of basic and human rights by the PNA organs: Violation was the rule and correct behavior the exception. Today it is the other way around. The situation is improving gradually. When we began, virtually every prisoner in the PNA prisons complained to us about regular physical abuse and beating. Today we only rarely hear such complaints. Of course, there are still far too many violations of laws. It would be completely unrealistic to expect changes overnight. Many people hardly knew the term human rights, were not used to our kind of intervention, and had no idea of the role of a civilian police force in a democratic system. Today they know that we are looking over their shoulders and can take them to task. Therefore, they have become far more careful; we see that they are trying to follow these standards — and if they do not, we intervene.

[Wertz] Thus, you have access to the prisoners? Amnesty International was refused access.

['Ashrawi] Amnesty International was not able to visit people sentenced by the State Security Court, but I have access. I demand to see the files, I demand to talk with the inmates of the prisons, I pay surprise visits, and I have never been turned back.

[Wertz] Were you so successful just because you are Hanan 'Ashrawi?

['Ashrawi] Yes. But now that we have an institution, I need not do that anymore. Nowadays we send our lawyers to these prisons with the same success or failure. For instance, we have founded a group of lawyers who read the PNA draft laws, comment on them, and make suggestions for improvements. We are dealing with any kind of abuse of power; we check the appointments in the Palestinian authorities, check their dealing with public funds, and the PNA's way of working.

[Wertz] Do you believe the elections will result in an improvement of the legal situation in the autonomous territories?

['Ashrawi] I see these elections as an important means on this path toward better things.

[Wertz] There is no democratic Arab state. Precisely the Palestinians, who have never had their own state, are now supposed to be the first ones to achieve that?

['Ashrawi] You cannot generalize. There is no genetic defect that says that Arabs are undemocratic. Just because we have been unfortunate enough not to have a democratic government, this does not mean that we do not want or deserve that. The Arabs, too, want democracies. The Palestinians have suffered long enough under Israeli occupation. We know what it means to live under an undemocratic system. We have never hidden our criticism and our resistance. It would be strange if we were silent now. We will struggle for our own democratic system.

[Wertz] I think this is a bit too optimistic.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

['Ashrawi] I admit that occasionally I see symptoms of intimidation, censorship, or people who complain about things but do not want to give their names. That is why we need the elections. This will lead to a new openness and will give rise to a new democratic discussion.

[Wertz] Not everyone is so democratically minded. I am thinking of Hamas and Jihad.

['Ashrawi] Why do people always insinuate that all Hamas or Jihad members are undemocratic? They are not all part of the military wing, most of them are not even political. They have never demanded a one-party system. Let them run in the elections. If they win, they will win because the people want that. If they lose, they must bow to the will of the majority. When we talk about pluralism, we must respect them.

[Wertz] In many countries, parties that want to destroy the system are banned.

['Ashrawi] At the moment there is a discussion about not permitting racist parties. However, I have never heard that the Islamic parties want to destroy the system. I, for my part, would feel considerably better if all parties were permitted to run in the elections.

[Wertz] How is that supposed to work? In the autonomous area you already have Ottoman, Egyptian, Jordanian, and British colonial laws plus Israeli military orders. Now Palestinian laws are to make the chaos even greater?

['Ashrawi] That is why the Israelis must give us legislative power so we can unify the laws. This is necessary and it is our right.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Quray', Savir Agree To Resume Talks Near Elat

Quray' on Water Rights

JN2707124095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0948 GMT 27 Jul 95

[Telephone interview with Palestinian Economy Minister Ahmad Quray' by Yasir 'Atilah in Amman on 27 July; from the "With the Midday Events" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] ['Atilah] Mr. Ahmad Quray', Abu-'Ala', you are now in Amman. I would like to ask about your meeting with Uri Savir, head of the Israeli delegation, yesterday to set a date, venue, and framework for resuming negotiations. What was the outcome of this meeting?

[Quray'] First of all, during the meeting, it was decided to fully resume negotiations on Sunday [30 July] by all working groups and committees. It was decided in principle to hold these negotiations somewhere near Elat so that we can accomplish things and be able to draft our ideas and the results we reach and to define the points of agreement and disagreement. Hence, we have decided to resume negotiations, which have been suspended for about five days.

['Atilah] In terms of contents, we have learned that talks on water rights have been postponed until the final stage?

[Quray'] There is nothing in this regard whatsoever. I am surprised at reports citing senior Israeli officials that this issue has been postponed. There is no reason to postpone this issue. The rights issue is central to the water issue. It is a Palestinian constant from which we cannot budge at all. The issue of rights should be listed on the agenda. Moreover, there should be an endorsement of the principle of rights to subterranean waters, to the three main water basins in the West Bank — the Western, Northern, and Eastern basins — as well as rights to surface waters like springs, valleys, and so forth, and to the Jordan River basin waters. These issues deal with Palestinian rights that cannot be relinquished or postponed. Discussion of these issues will begin and we will seek results once these issues are fixed on the agenda. Issues dealing with bilateral and international cooperation, reinforcement of water resources, and preservation of existing waters and their protection from pollution emanate from this principle.

['Atilah] Will you take part in the meetings of the PLO Executive Committee and Fatah Central Committee to be held in Tunis as of next Sunday?

[Quray'] I cannot give you a final answer. However, I believe that these meetings may be postponed until a final formula on the transitional agreement is reached so that it can be discussed within the political leadership frameworks.

['Atilah] Does this mean that these talks will be postponed?

[Quray'] In fact, I am not authorized to provide any information or to decide on issues dealing with the Fatah Central Committee, the PLO Executive Committee, the Fatah Revolutionary Council, or the PLO Central Council meetings. However, I think it is important for these political leadership frameworks to meet when a formula or a draft agreement is reached to get their approval or rejection. They are the ones authorized to look into these draft agreements. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Says 'Many Snags' Remain

NC2707163695 Paris AFP in English 1617 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, July 27 (AFP)—Israel and the PLO are at odds on crucial issues relating to the extension of Palestinian autonomy across the West Bank, the PLO chief negotiator said Thursday [27 July] as the two sides prepared to resume talks.

Ahmad Quray', visiting Amman, said wide gaps remained over an Israeli troop redeployment outside Palestinian areas on the West Bank and the transfer of security to the self-rule authority.

"We still have two main obstacles and many snags before striking a package deal with Israel," Quray' told AFP, adding that water-sharing was also causing problems.

"We still have differences in substance. But if the main issues are resolved we are bound to reach an agreement."

Quray' told Israeli radio earlier that autonomy talks, which were suspended Monday after a suicide bomber killed six Israelis on board a Tel Aviv bus, would resume on Sunday near the Israeli Red Sea resort of Elat.

Already more than a year behind schedule, the negotiators are trying to strike a deal to redeploy Israeli troops, to hand over civilian powers and to hold autonomy elections.

Quray' told AFP: "We want a set agenda for redeploying Israeli troops on the West Bank and another timetable for transferring all security responsibilities to the Palestinian self-rule authority." Israel had so far refused to outline a timetable for a troop pull-back, he added.

The Jewish state has agreed to pull out of four towns in the north of the West Bank once a deal is signed. But it wants to complete construction of by-pass roads around Ramallah and Bethlehem for the safety of Jewish settlers before evacuating the two cities.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin also wants to maintain security control over Hebron, where 400 Jews live amid 120,000 Palestinians.

Quray' said the PLO was opposed to any delay in a Hebron pull-out. "Hebron is like any other Palestinian town," he said.

Palestinian Police in Hebron Accepted

TA2807100595 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 28 Jul 95 p A3

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Israeli-Palestinian talks will fully resume on Sunday, 30 July, in a bid to finalize the Israeli-Palestinian interim agreement as soon as possible. This was concluded two days ago by the delegation heads, Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, and the Palestinian Authority's Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray']. Meanwhile Israel has agreed to a Palestinian police presence in Hebron. Next week's talks will decide whether this force will be armed. [passage omitted]

In quiet contacts held between the two sides over the last few days, Israel has agreed to a Palestinian police presence in Hebron contrary to its previous position, stipulating that only one security force, namely the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], will be deployed in Hebron.

In next week's talks, the sides will determine the number of Palestinian policemen to be deployed in Hebron and whether they will be armed. Their jurisdiction and the nature of their relations with the IDF and the Jewish settlers in Hebron will also be determined at that time. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday said that it will be a mistake to discuss the permanent arrangement in the territories at this stage, because this will return the issue of Jerusalem to the center of the argument. A source in the Israeli delegation for the talks with the Palestinians yesterday said the date for a meeting between 'Arafat and Peres has still not been set. He said the location and timing of such a meeting will be decided when the talks require the intervention of the political echelon.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Algeria

Details of Amendments to Electoral Law Reported

LD2507145695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President of the State Liamine Zeroual signed the decree amending and completing the electoral law, which was published in the official gazette of the Republic of Algeria in issue No. 39 of 23 July. Among the amended articles that have raised great controversy and sharp arguments inside the Transitional National Council before the council endorsed the text of the decree recently, we recall Article 7. Article 7 includes conditions of candidacy and amends Article 108 of law No. 13/89 dated 7 August 1989 as well as Article 4 amending Article 50, which includes the right to vote by proxy. More details on the two articles with Nasir Ait Tahir:

[Begin Ait Tahir recording] Article 108 stipulates that candidacy for presidency is carried out by submitting a registration application to the Constitutional Council and receiving a receipt. The candidacy application includes the first name of the person concerned, his surname, signature, profession, and address.

A file should be enclosed with the application that has the following certificates:

- a full copy of the birth certificate of the candidate;
- a certificate of nationality at birth of the candidate;
- a certificate proving that the person concerned does not have a multiple nationality;
- a certificate No. 3 [a certificate proving that the candidate has not committed a criminal offense];
- a recent photograph of the candidate;
- the original certificate of nationality of the candidate's spouse;
- a medical certificate of the candidate signed by sworn-in doctors;
- a national military service (or exemption) certificate.

The signatures required by Article 110 of the electoral law are as follows:

- candidate's certificate of landed and movable properties;
- a certificate proving participation in the national liberation war for those born before 1 July 1942;
- a certificate proving that the candidate's parents born after 1 July 1942 were not involved in acts against the national liberation revolution;
- a written pledge signed by the candidate proving the following:
  - adhering to the Constitution provisions and defending it;
  - working to consolidate national unity and defending the territorial integrity;
  - adhering to democracy and respecting political pluralism under the principles of the republic;
  - rejecting violence as a means of political action to attain or continue in power;
  - respecting and glorifying Islam, the religion of the state, and not using religion for partisan aims;
  - to be committed to the principle of power rotation by way of the free choice of the Algerian people;
  - respecting the individual and collective freedoms and human rights;
  - rejecting feudalist and regional practices of favoritism;
  - respecting the values of the 1 November 1954 revolution;
  - promoting national identities in their three dimensions: Islamist, Arab, and Amazight character.

In addition to all these conditions, the candidate must provide a number of no less than 75,000 individual signatures of an electorate registered in the electoral lists. These signatures must be gathered across at least 25 provinces. The minimum number of required signatures in each province of the aforementioned number of provinces must not be less than 1,500 signatures. These signatures to be registered in an individual publication countersigned by a public officer. These printed matters to be lodged at the same time in which the nomination file — under Article 108 of this law — is lodged at the Constitutional Council.

Among the amended provisions that also attracted the concern of the members of the Transitional National Council when they were debating this law was Article No. 4, which amends Article 50 containing the right of voting by proxy, and this article was amended as follows:

The elector who belongs to one of those categories explained in Article 50 can exercise the right to vote by proxy on request from the people who are sick in hospital or who are being treated in their own homes, those who suffer from a severe disability, the elderly, workers who are working outside the province of their residence, those who are on the move or who are at work on election day, and citizens who are abroad. [end recording]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Spousal Candidacy Condition Ruled Unconstitutional

LD2707234695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Constitutional Council today issued a statement following a meeting on 25 July in which it indicated the following:

After taking cognizance of Order 95-21 dated 19 July, which amends and supplements Law 89-13 dated 7 August 1989, which amends, supplements, and includes the Election Law published in the Official Gazette of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria in Issue 39 dated 23 July;

And after taking cognizance of Article 7 of this order which amends Article 108 of the Law 89-13, which stipulates that a candidate's candidacy papers for the Presidency of the republic should contain the certificate of Algerian nationality of origin of his spouse:

Based on the Constitution, particularly Article 153, Paragraph 1, and Article 159, and based on the internal regulation of the Constitutional Council, it recalls and adheres to its resolution Number 1 dated 20 August 1989, pertaining to the Elections Law, and published in the Official Gazette of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria in Issue 36 dated 30 August 1989, in which it was established that the condition that the candidacy papers for the Presidency of the Republic should be accompanied by the certificate of Algerian nationality of origin of the candidate's spouse was not in conformity with the Constitution.

Egypt

Musa Comments on Bosnia, U.S. Senate Decision

NC2707180495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 27 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has described the U.S. Senate's decision to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia as sending "a strong message" to the Serbs. He said it is an important decision; it follows international opinion and highlights the international wave of resentment and rejection of Serb activity and aggressiveness. It also rejects procrastinating, threatening, and calling for a truce with the aggressors. In a statement after his meeting today with U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Edward Walker, Musa said he stressed to the U.S. ambassador Egypt's clear position on Bosnia and the need to implement the resolutions of the Contact Group conference on Bosnia that was held in London on 21 July.

Musa said it is important to give the Bosnian people the right to defend themselves. He said it is unfair to restrict the Bosnians, promise to defend them, and then disavow the promise before a Serb assault. He added that this policy led to the loss of territory and the safe havens, which are supposed to be under UN protection. He declared: If the London conference resolutions on Bosnia are implemented, the situation in Bosnia will change. However, if these resolutions are not implemented, we will be reminded of the procrastination of Europe and other big powers. Without international protection, no conscientious man could deny a people the legitimate right to defend their land, borders, and families.

On the Islamic position on Bosnia, Musa pointed out that the resolutions passed by the Islamic liaison group in Geneva are important and can be implemented after these countries agree on meeting the needs of the Bosnian people. He said the resolutions will be implemented through bilateral contacts.

Musa said the U.S. Senate decision, which passed by more than two-thirds in support of the resolutions, shows the strong international trend against Serb aggression.

Musa pointed out that the Bosnian issue is not only religious, but also involves territory, international order, implementation of international law, and respect for the UN Charter, resolutions, and its credibility. He said these issues were outlined in the successive resolutions on allowing the Bosnian people to defend themselves, while implementing the London conference resolutions. He said: If the London conference resolutions are implemented and NATO strikes the Serb aggressors, there is no doubt that the situation would change. The world will takes sides, either with the Islamic states or the United States. He noted that implementation of the London conference resolutions will prove that the procrastination phase has ended. He said Egypt expects results.

Regarding the Middle East, Musa commented that some difficulties still face the peace process, but he stressed that the peace process is continuing. Responding to a question on Arab reconciliation, Egyptian-Sudanese differences and efforts on this, he said the work on Arab reconciliation is frustrated and threatened by "any policy that supports terrorism." He stressed that supporting terrorism and terrorizing the Arab societies is a blow to the core of Arab solidarity and the efforts to achieve Arab reconciliation.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Paper Criticizes Clinton's Stance on Bosnia

NC2807072595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0500 GMT 28 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 28 Jul (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR has condemned U.S. President Bill Clinton's threat to use the veto after the U.S. Senate passed a resolution on lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia.

The newspaper describes the U.S. President's stance on Bosnia as irresolute. The paper notes that he previously proposed repealing the weapons ban even if the United States was forced to act unilaterally, without the approval of its allies. The paper says: Thus, we return to the vicious circle: If Clinton accepts, the Congress rejects; and when Congress accepts, Clinton rejects.

In its comment for today, the paper notes that Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa was very firm in his recent statement that Egypt will not allow the various responsible sides to avoid firm actions on Bosnia. It asserted the Islamic countries insistence on not enforcing the arms embargo on the Bosnian people, who are facing initial aggression by the Serb criminals.

The paper asks the Islamic and Arab countries to review their relations with the Russian Federation, which is arming the Bosnian Serbs publicly and defends them on every occasion. It is also threatening to use its veto if the UN Security Council decides to reverse the resolution banning sending weapons to Bosnia.

Musa Calls PA's al-Husayni After Settlers' Attack

NC2807112295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 28 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 28 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held a telephone call today with Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, official responsible for the Jerusalem file in the Palestinian Authority [PA], to inquire about him after the attack he was subjected to by some extremist Israeli settlers the day before yesterday, Wednesday [26 July].

The foreign minister once again stated Egypt's condemnation of all kinds of violence that target civilians, be it in the Middle East, Europe, or any other part of the world.

Paper on Planning, Execution of Assassination Plot

95LD0095A Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 7 Jul 95 pp 26-29

[Article by Walid Abu-Zahr: "Full Story of Attempt on Husni Mubarak's Life; Planning in Switzerland and France, Training in Sudan, Execution in Ethiopia; Three Surprises Foiled Three-Part Plan, Preventing Use of RPGs and Suicidal Car"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] But why Husni Mubarak? How was the attempt on his life planned, and who carried it out?

Before this edition was completed last weekend, AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI was able to gather threads of the preliminary investigations conducted in Ethiopia, Cairo, and some Arab, African, and Western countries, with the participation of major intelligence agencies, including the CIA and European intelligence agencies that have given special attention to the attempt on the Egyptian president's life.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI has learned from a European security source that possesses extensive dossiers on the radical Islamists' activities and their camps in Sudan and Iran that the attempt on the Egyptian president's life was a highly professional job that had been planned carefully more than two months ago. This source has disclosed that reports assert that the preliminary planning for the operation started with a secret meeting by a radical Islamic group in a small village, called Virney Voltaire, on the French-Swiss border. A part of the village is in Swiss territory and the other in French territory.

According to the reports, that very serious meeting was held at the invitation of Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of Egypt's Jihad and a refugee in Switzerland, and attended by a number of Egyptian radicals who had come from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Europe. These leaders included a representative of Muhammad Shawqi al-Islambuli, who is a refugee in Pakistan; a representative of Tal'at Fu'ad, also known as Abu-al-Qasim, who is a refugee in Denmark; and Mustafa Hamzah, a high-ranking Conquest Vanguards official, who arrived in Geneva from Sudan, using a Sudanese passport. In addition to these Egyptian radicals, the meeting included elements representing Algerian "Afghan Arab" radicals who developed broad relations with Egyptian radical groups, whether in Afghanistan, where Egyptians supervise training camps, or in Sudan. Some of these Algerians have had good personal relations with al-Zawahiri since the days when he lived in Peshawar. The meeting was also attended by the imam of a small mosque in Switzerland who is a close friend of al-Zawahiri's and is considered the link and the liaison officer between Egyptian and Maghreb groups in Europe.

Three Scenarios and Three Teams

Security reports confirm that the conferees displayed unanimous agreement on the need to carry out a big operation at the Addis Ababa summit, viewing the occasion as a "golden opportunity" to execute armed

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

operations with the smallest degree of risk by virtue of the lawlessness experienced by Ethiopia and of the Islamic groups' infiltration of government agencies. It is the Western security source's opinion that the idea of carrying out high-level assassinations had been discussed at the Arab Islamic People's Congress, which convened in Khartoum at the end of last March and saw the largest international gathering of Islamic radical leaders. The most dangerous of these leaders held their secret meetings at villas in Khartoum's suburbs. It seems that the focused attention devoted by Western intelligence to that conference caused the absence of numerous leading radical figures. Thus, the participants were content to agree on coordination, leaving the planning of operations to meetings to be held out of sight in Europe, including the Swiss-French border meeting.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI's information confirms that the discussions at that night meeting dealt with three scenarios: First, stage a suicidal operation against the conference site in Addis Ababa; second, assassinate Algerian President Liamine Zeroual—a scenario on which "Afghan Algerians" focused; third, target Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. Ayman al-Zawahiri exploited his influence, relations, and persuasiveness to warn of the fragile and risky nature of the first proposal, considering the security measures surrounding the conference site and the difficulty of penetrating the barriers to get to African leaders wanted by the Islamic groups. As for the Zeroual proposal, it too was short-lived, considering that the Algerian president is not viewed as a big fish by international Islamic radicals and that he would not create large-scale reverberations beyond Algeria. Moreover, there was unanimous agreement at the meeting that Zeroual's assassination could strengthen the control of the uprooting-oriented tendency within the military establishment and would not create any void in the government. Rather, Zeroual is viewed by some radical Islamists as less dangerous than some generals who could succeed him.

It was decided to target Husni Mubarak for several reasons, including the vanguard role he performs in fighting Egypt's radicals and confronting them forcefully and his endeavor to persuade Arab, Islamic, and Western countries of the need to adopt a plan to fight Islamic radicalism. In addition to becoming a leader in fighting religious radicalism, Mubarak is the head of the biggest Arab state and the symbol of Egypt's stability. He also plays a fundamental role in enhancing the Middle East peace process. Consequently, he is an obstacle to the accomplishment of the Islamist radicals' scheme in Egypt and the Arab and Islamic worlds. Therefore, Mubarak's assassination would be a catastrophe to the entire region and would upturn the existing equations. On the basis of these points, it was agreed to develop a plan to assassinate Husni Mubarak. The task of developing scenarios to be executed in a manner that would permit no failure was entrusted to the "Afghans." Al-Islambuli's representative proposed that the act be planned precisely and that the plan include the use of all means and encompass more than one scenario and be divided among three teams or groups: The first team would set up an ambush and stage a preliminary assault with automatic weapons to confuse the Egyptian president's motorcade and guards. When Mubarak's car came to a halt, another team would fire antiarmor RPG [rocket-propelled grenade] to completely destroy the motorcade, particularly the president's car. The third team would be readied to intervene in case the first two teams failed and the Egyptian president's motorcade moved on. In this case, a booby-trapped vehicle driven by a kamikaze would ram the president's vehicle.

Because the conferees were convinced the Addis Ababa operation could not fail, Mustafa Hamzah was assigned to instruct his groups in Cairo and some governorates, where the Conquest Vanguards Army or the so-called World's Dispossessed are found, to stage a series of explosions and armed operations in order to create a general state of panic to coincide with the reception of news of Mubarak's assassination.

Al-Zawahiri in Sudan and Ethiopia

The border meeting ended, and Hamzah, along with three "Afghans," returned to Khartoum to begin preparations and to train the armed teams to execute the plan. Security reports indicate that these preparations were made at a radical fundamentalist camp in the northern part of the Sudanese capital. This is the camp placed at the disposal of the Jerusalem Forces, an internationalist Islamist battalion supervised by Iranian Revolutionary Guard officers and comprised of Arabs and Muslims from various nationalities. The teams were selected from commando units comprised mainly of Egyptian, Sudanese, Algerian, and Ethiopian "Afghans." Reports also indicate that a kamikaze was selected from a group belonging to the Returnees from Afghanistan organization, considered the Conquest Vanguards striking force and designated for suicidal operations. The kamikaze was trained at this camp under the supervision of Iranian experts by Palestinian Jihad specialists who possess broad experience in these operations.

While training went on, a team of 10 persons headed for Ethiopia to survey the site and deployment positions and to draw up detailed maps, in cooperation with Sudan-supported Ethiopian radical groups. Ethiopian sources assert that this team succeeded in getting the support

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

of some Ethiopian security commanders who provided detailed information on the summit schedule and program and on the movements of all attending leaders. These commanders also facilitated the deployment of the armed teams and secured the cover for their escape upon completion of the operation.

Mustafa Hamzah worked energetically along another line to increase arms shipments smuggled into Egypt and to secure weapons caches in preparation for the "zero hour." Egyptian authorities discovered one of these caches in Kawm Umbu, where they found 61 automatic weapons; assault grenades; 500 grams of TNT; 300 sticks of P.I., an explosive used by armies only; and a large number of detonators and rounds of ammunition. This has motivated observers to assert that Sudanese Army stores have been made available to Egyptian radical groups.

After coordinating with Ethiopian radical groups, ensuring the collusion of some Ethiopian security agencies, smuggling the necessary weapons to Ethiopia, and leasing the vehicles to be used in the operation, including the vehicle to be mined, 30 elements headed from Ethiopia to Sudan.

AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI information confirms that, during this period, al-Zawahiri made a secret visit to Sudan and Ethiopia in which he familiarized himself with the final plan. He also met with the executors and delivered to them a fiery address in which he underlined the importance of martyrdom for the success of this operation, as well as the importance of avoiding any mistakes that lead to repeating the failure that afflicted the attempts to assassinate Prime Minister Atif Sidqi, Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi, and Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif.

At 0500 on Monday, 26 June, the three teams proceeded to take up their positions on Poli Road [as published], which connects Addis Ababa Airport with the African summit headquarters. The wait then started for a communication from an Ethiopian airport security officer to relay that the Egyptian president's motorcade was on its way.

Mubarak Surprises Terrorists

At about 0830, the early signs of the "blessing" that accompanies the Egyptian president appeared before he could make sure that the blessing is also due to the expertise of the security team that guards and protects him. The first surprise was to the scenario that had been so carefully and professionally planned that it gives the impression that the intelligence of a state experienced in terrorist operations is behind it. This surprise was that the Egyptian president arrived at Addis Ababa Airport and left it ahead of his official schedule on which the terrorists had based their plans. The terrorists did not receive their secret communication that Mubarak's motorcade was heading for the conference until 0855. This was the first surprise that contributed to foiling the operation, or rather to foiling the second team's plan. Because the distance between the airport and the ambush site was no more than one kilometer, the terrorist team was barely able to ready its automatic weapons and a blue Toyota truck that was assigned to intercept the president's motorcade. Thus, the team assigned to fire the RPGs was unable to get them out of its travel bags, where it had concealed them. Concurrently with this team's confusion and surprise, the first team, which had set up the ambush and begun to fire on the presidential motorcade, especially targeting Mubarak's car, was surprised to see that the Egyptian president had not used the official "limousine" provided for his use by the Ethiopian authorities but had brought with him from Cairo an armored bullet-proof Mercedes that RPG's cannot pierce.

The third surprise, rather third blow, was dealt to the terrorists by President Mubarak's driver. He blocked the path in the face of executing the third plan and foiled this plan by successfully turning the car in the direction of the airport, keeping in mind that the terrorists' calculations and the plan they had drawn were based on lessons taught at personal escort and security schools. These lessons stress that a driver must hurtle barriers and drive forward as fast as possible, whatever the cost. But Mubarak's return to the airport confused all these calculations and saved the Egyptian president from a true catastrophe to which he would have been exposed had he gotten to the place where the suicidal vehicle was waiting at a distance of 100 meters from the first ambush.

This is why security experts have agreed that the decision made by the Egyptian president's driver to return to the airport, and from there to Cairo, was a wise decision. These experts assert that numerous questions arose as a consequence of this operation, underlining the priority of departing Addis Ababa and casting doubt on the ability of all the security measures to protect the Egyptian president. Foremost among these questions is one that was raised about the presence of collusion by the Ethiopian security forces that were unable to secure the airport road, which had been expected to be traveled by 53 heads of state.

Despite the capabilities that Egyptian radical groups have tried to demonstrate in Ethiopia by plotting this professional operation, it has been noticed that Western experts have focused in analyzing the operation on the extent of the threat Islamic radicalism poses to the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

world by and on the need to carry on with the plans to fight it. As for the Egyptian side, experts agree that the fact that radicals have resorted to executing operations outside Egypt confirms that Mubarak's domestic policy has borne fruits and that terrorists are able no longer to carry out operations at this level inside Egypt and will be even less able to do so in coming months. This is because the latest operation has strengthened the Egyptian president's resolve to confront radicals amidst tremendous popular support. This support was reflected most clearly in the national solidarity and the support given to Mubarak upon his return from Ethiopia hale and healthy, having survived an assassination attempt that targeted Egypt's role, stability, and future before targeting its president.

Article on International Muslim Brotherhood Goals

95LD0059A Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic
7 Apr 95 pp 18-19

[Article by 'Ali 'Ashmawi: "The Mask Drops From the MB's Face"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The mask has dropped from the face of the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] and proven us right in what we have been saying. Action is in full swing to exploit the hot spots in the Islamic world, to train MB adherents with members of al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, and all this happens thanks to the use of the resources of the MB's global organization, led by Mustafa Mashhur, Deputy Guide of the MB; he is helped in this by Muhammad Mahdi 'Akif, according to the al-Tamkin [as published] documents previously published by AL-MUSAWWAR. The group recently exposed by the Interior Ministry confirmed the connection and shed light in darkness. The relations became utterly, unambiguously clear. This is no lie or falsehood; truth always appears despite the constant distortion and denials of the al-Jama'ah leadership. They are ready to confront the government; there is constant training, and their network for secret action grows with every passing day. And there is coordination between the MB and the other extremist groups.

The wave of terror and violence, led by al-Jama'ah al-Islamiya and the many other such groups, which have suddenly spread and filled the world with fear, and with the murder of innocents, has eased. All that may have been at the instigation and prompting of the MB. They have taken advantage of these conditions, gathering the spoils in the end while members of the groups paid with their lives for the Brotherhood's ambitions.

The truth is that the situation reaps the following gains for the MB:

1. The appearance of seeming to be a moderate group, compared with this raging torrent of violence.

2. Exhausting the government's resources in battles seemingly unrelated to the MB, in order to allow its own members free rein, and to disperse them throughout the political landscape in preparation for a confrontation with the government, in which the MB will choose the timing and manner of confrontation.

3. Distancing itself from those groups, by describing them as independent groups, not indebted to or totally obedient to al-Jama'ah, when coordination and cooperation are in reality the essence of their relations.

When al-Jama'ah's wave began to pass and it was penetrated and brought under control by the security forces, the MB was discovered, and its fingers were found to be controlling that pathetic puppet. It helped it undertake its actions and facilitated matters for it. It had supplied money, arms, and training. For no one can ride an airplane or go to the blazing fighting fronts of the world to fight with them, or help them, without some connections and introductions, without references. Such matters are not improvised or spontaneous. All those wars are waged with the assistance of secret organized groups and international organs with power and influence. And there is no access to them except through one of the forces involved in the game—you should excuse the expression.

Hence the role of the Muslim Brotherhood, the "international group," and its total immersion in stage-managing international crises and taking advantage of the existence of areas of conflict throughout the Islamic world. As to importing and smuggling arms in cooperation with the global mafia, this cannot happen without them. They raise huge sums of money in the process, most of which goes to feed other conflicts in other places, raising yet more money.

In addition to that, they are totally involved with and coordinating with the big powers' intelligence services entangled in those little wars to take advantage of them politically and socially. And after that they fill the world with their shouting about anti-Islamic plots and action against them—to raise more money and win over public opinion in the Islamic countries, which they may, in turn, turn to their advantage. They have closed the circle perfectly to give them even more every time their members act and interact.

All national forces in Egypt and the Islamic world were mobilized to collect donations for Bosnia, and Afghanistan before that, and God alone knows how many of these donations reached those who needed them and how much stayed behind to be spent on the MB's

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

activities. This is not new for them, but what happened when they raised money in the days of the Palestine war, and later in the fighting against the British, is the best indicator of their ways, of the manner in which they operate, which has never changed. You lost a not inconsiderable part of the donations collected for the Palestinians in 1939—it was spent on the MB's branches and various activities, which precipitated the splitting off of a group of the Brotherhood who did not like this behavior; they formed another group called "the Youth of Our Lord Muhammad."

Since that time, the MB treats any funds they collect for general causes such as this. They are not in the least embarrassed to collect some of these funds for al-Jama'ah. They can make use of other national forces to get assistance in collecting funds. But they do not consult with them about how the money is spent.

The Hidden Is Exposed

Over the years, the MB has denied any connection with extremist groups, but at the same time it openly provides them with juridic and media cover, and, in secret, with cooperation and coordination. This has been brought to light every so often. Professor Salah Shadi was keen on attending conferences hand in hand with Muhammad 'Abd-al-Salam Faraj in the years following Shadi's release from prison. He had ongoing coordination with Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, both in Egypt and abroad. While sending volunteers to Afghanistan, coordination between both sides was constant—and between the MB, Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, and U.S. intelligence, which was closely supervising the movement and dispatch of volunteers and weapons to Afghanistan. This is no longer a secret; American newspapers have revealed everything about it. Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and some of his supporters have spoken about it.

This Group

Then this recently curbed group comes along and yet again confirms the organic relationship between the MB and al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, their agreement and goals, even their close cooperation in the smallest details of terrorist action.

This group, recently curbed, is seen as one of the many scattered groups to carry out these missions; and the MB imagines that it is not attracting attention, because it created such excellent cover.

The strange thing about the latter subject is that the MB did not pay heed to the safety of the voters who gave them their vote to form the leadership of the Doctors' Syndicate. They did not represent the needs or the many interests of the doctors, which deserved the care and attention of the Syndicate.

They betrayed the voters' security. They exploited the positions in which the syndicate voters placed them to pursue the interests of al-Jama'ah—if only these had been ordinary activities! But they were illegal activities that harmed the security of Egypt, which they should have defended instead of hurting.

The MB has always said that they have a precise organization, and this actually is what distinguishes them from other political movements in Egypt. Anyone who follows their organizational methods finds that they have consolidated their system at home and abroad; all they need to do is prepare the political arena to accept them once again on the political stage in Egypt. In aid of that, they are doing their utmost to brighten their image and to convince the diverse political powers that they are moderate and that they are prepared to review many of their opinions with the aim of winning acceptance and acknowledgment of the other political movements and from some men in government, if they can do so. In another sense, they are taking action to penetrate the government structure and its institutions and opposition forces in the political field. To do that, they are prepared to renounce publicly many of their old views. Recently, they issued a series of pamphlets setting out a vehement retreat on the subject of women, democracy, and even the subject of Israel. Recently, they published information according to which the MB inside Palestine is working on getting into elections in Israel, and that some of its representatives have entered the Israeli Knesset! All this is meant to prepare the political arena to accept them before they undertake their wide-ranging confrontation to seize power in Egypt. They will never give up this demand; they are in a serious crisis because of their tardiness in achieving that in Egypt.

To the MB, ruling Egypt has become a must. Otherwise it will lose credibility among the Brotherhood movements in the rest of the Muslim countries, and yet it know it will not take it over, because the opposition to them in Egypt will not allow it.

So all that is left to them are illicit methods. These methods are not foreign to them; they have been raised on them, and they form the basis of their thinking. Thus, everything that appears on the surface of the attempts to appear civilized, cooperating with all the other forces of society—what are they but stalling and hiding their true nature as they prepare for other fields— military, educational—and for the great clash.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Rumors

The MB has succeeded in seizing power in Sudan. The MB has been sharing power in Jordan and Malaysia. Al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah ruled Pakistan for a considerable period of time. All of this puts intense pressure on the Egyptian MB to seize power. Otherwise they will lose their preeminence and the leadership of the Brotherhood throughout the world, especially as many voices now have begun to be heard seeking to oust the leadership in Egypt and accusing the Egyptian MB of negativity and impotence. Yet they still retain their control over the global organization and the rest of the MB forces in other countries, in spite of those voices. But, for how much longer will they be able to hold on to this leadership position? Their only course is to rule Egypt or to ignite it, turning it into another Algeria. This is the state they are in now, this pressure imposes certain positions and actions on them.

Any observer of the MB's actions outside Egypt hears a great deal of this sort of thing from them. They speak casually and incautiously as long as they are outside Egypt. You hear them talk about assassinations, violence, and armed confrontation. They always speak of these matters with the utmost confidence and certainty, as if these things were decided, as if only the right time had not come yet.

The MB in Egypt and outside it runs a powerful rumor machine, which it uses to direct public opinion in its favor, exploiting religious sentiment among the Muslim masses, to explain its positions and those of its opponents. They always pursue the man in the street. They never let people alone for a moment to think or understand policies and events—they always rush in to interpret every topic, every position, on top of the rumors they start about their foes.

It so happened that I heard some of the rumors, when a rural merchant asked me whether it were true what was said about the cabinet ministers—had they really ordered Egyptian businessmen to go to Israel and make deals with the Israelis or else they would be angry with them? I denied this and said that it was nonsense and that no one ought to listen to these rumors. Businessmen in Egypt act in their own economic interests and Egypt's interests. It is ridiculous for such things to be said about them.

Another man asked me why the government was waging war against Islam. What is needed is an answer good, simple Muslims can understand. I said that the government was not fighting Islam; it was fighting those who were violating Islam. Similar people had done such things in the past to 'Ali Ibn-Abi-Talib. He fought them for the sake of the soundness of the society and for the truth of the people's faith, which has been protected by the honorable al-Azhar [University] over the ages.

These kinds of rumors fill rural Egypt, and the MB is the source of these organized rumors, which always exploit our religion and the subject of Israel to delude good Muslims and confuse their thinking, to facilitate the MB's subsequent recruitment, and to serve their interests.

But they should be careful. They nearly lost their minds and have begun to behave in a way contrary to their customary prudence. They have started rushing events along, which has caused them to make mistakes early than I had expected them to.

This is how the MB has begun to lose its touch. Its intentions, which it used to excel at hiding, are now visible to all. The security services have seized them one after another, and its involvement in orchestrating the waves of terrorism through extremist groups, which come to light, one after the other, after having been successfully hidden for so long.

It has made use of the syndicates they control. It is not strange that this new organization was hidden in the Doctors' Syndicate. Dr. 'Isam al-Iryan, the power behind the Doctors' Syndicate, is seen as a figure rising with astonishing rapidity in the MB leadership—so fast that there are those who classify him as one of the new members in the newly formed Guidance Office.

This brings us to the point of looking into the syndicates over which the MB have gained control and its new attempts to get into new syndicates. We must look into this in a future article, God willing, to expose their method of control over those syndicates and certain other public organizations.

Libya

Liaison Secretary Meets Tunisian Foreign Minister

LD2707131195 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1120 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis — The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation yesterday held a lengthy meeting with the Tunisian Foreign Affairs Minister Habib Ben Yahia within the framework of continued consultation between the two fraternal countries. The meeting was also attended by the Tunisian Secretary of State for Arab Maghreb Affairs Said Ben Mustapha and the brother charge d'affaires at the Great Jamahiriyah General Delegation in Tunisia. During the meeting, a review was made of the fraternal relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and sister Tunisia. Means for

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

developing and bolstering bilateral relations in various fields were discussed. Many Arab, international, and regional issues of common interest were discussed as well.

Morocco

Portuguese Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

LD2707230495 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moroccan-Portuguese talks were held in Rabat between Abdellatif Filali, prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and Portuguese Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Durao Barroso, who arrived in our country this evening for a two-day official visit at the invitation of Abdellatif Filali.

[Unidentified correspondent] The visit of Portuguese Foreign Minister Durao Barroso to Morocco carries great importance in view of the stage of Morocco's relations with the EU and the friendship and good-neighborliness agreement within which Moroccan-Portuguese relations are organized.

The questions of bilateral relations and Morocco's relations with the EU were the two main topics discussed at the meeting. The Portuguese foreign minister had this to say:

[Barroso, in Portuguese fading into Arabic report] Durao Barroso describes this meeting as very important because the two sides discussed a number of fundamental issues, particularly the international situation, bilateral relations, and European issues. He says that the talks also covered the hotbeds of tension in the Mediterranean region in addition to issues of mutual interest.

The Portuguese official adds that it could be said that it was a meeting to exchange views and hold consultations about those issues, as is the custom between the two neighboring countries, as well as to listen to Morocco's views concerning the relations with the EU and the situation in Bosnia. He describes the meeting as cordial and frank.

Sudan

General Expects Regime 'To Collapse Soon'

NC2707191095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Rahman Sa'id, the legal commander of the Sudanese Armed Forces, has said resentment and wrath is sweeping Sudan. He said the economy has deteriorated. In an interview with Cairo Radio, he said Sudanese citizens feel Sudan's isolation, which is a result of the irresponsible actions of the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime against its neighbors. He noted that the regime has isolated Sudan from the Arab people. He expects the regime to collapse soon because the Sudanese cannot find daily staples and because services and utilities—education, health care, transportation—have collapsed.

Opposition Figure on Activities Against Regime

NC2807072495 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 28 Jul 95

[Telephone interview with Mr. Munir Shaykh-al-Din, Sudanese National Party official, in Jeddah by Fayiz al-Miliji in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [al-Miliji] Mr. Munir Shaykh-al-Din, regarding coordination among the Sudanese opposition, is there currently full coordination?

[Shaykh-al-Din] I cannot say that there is full coordination among all parties of the opposition, both inside and outside Sudan. However, I can confirm that all these forces are very determined to change this regime in Khartoum in any way possible. I believe that this in itself is a basis for coordination.

[Al-Miliji] With the continued stubbornness of the regime and the policy of oppressing the Sudanese people, could the Sudanese people carry out any kind of internal action?

[Shaykh-al-Din] The Sudanese people are an experienced nation with previous experience of living under dictatorial regimes that came to power and then were toppled by the people. However, I cannot say that an incident that takes place today will be similar to what will happen tomorrow. Regardless of what is said and regardless of the nature of this regime, the Sudanese people have taken the initiative to express in one way or another their rejection of this regime. You have heard often that these people have gone out on the street and chanted against the regime. They have also confronted the regime's various security organs. You also learned of and saw that there have been numerous attempts to topple this regime. I believe that all these things confirm the Sudanese people's rejection of this regime and their concerted effort to topple it and establish a democratic alternative acceptable to the people.

[Al-Miliji] When will the decisive moment be, Mr. Munir?

[Shaykh-al-Din] I cannot say for sure when, or whether there will be a specific moment. However, we—the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

opposition inside and outside—believe that this regime is almost dead and has used up all its luck. It has become isolated from the people and has confined itself living behind the wall of the security organs that control the government there. On this basis, we believe that the vast gap between the regime and the Sudanese people assure the end of that regime. We also believe that it could definitely collapse at any time. [passage omitted]

Minister Taha on Possible New Talks With Rebels

EA2707165795 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha has announced Sudan's readiness to enter into a new round of talks with the rebel movement within the framework of the IGADD [Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development] initiative. He said Sudan was awaiting a communication from the IGADD group regarding the completion of preparations by the other side, the agenda, and their willingness to take part in the talks.

In a statement on his return from Nairobi this afternoon, His excellency said he had met with Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi, to whom he had delivered a verbal message from the president of the Republic, staff Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, on bilateral relations and developments affecting the peace process and on Sudan's readiness to resume talks in accordance with the agenda proposed during the recent visit of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter to the country.

The foreign minister added that President Moi had shown interest in the realization of peace in the country.

Independent Paper Criticizes Policy Toward Egypt

NC2707165995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 27 Jul (MENA)—The Sudanese newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM today called on the Sudanese regime to end the conflict in the Hala'ib and Halfa border areas and negotiate with Egypt to allow token Sudanese representation in the disputed areas. An article in the independent paper said Sudan is accused of supporting terrorism by not only Egypt, but also by the United States, the EU, Algeria, Tunisia, and others. The paper says the accusation is justified for several reasons, such as that it let Afghan Arabs enter Sudan to attended the meetings of Hasan al-Turabi's Arab Islamic Popular Conference, and for mobilizing the masses against Egypt.

The paper points out that despite Sudan denying that it attacked President Husni Mubarak's motorcade in Addis Ababa, press statements cited Hasan al-Turabi describe the aggressors as mujahidin and say Sudan will purge Egypt's filth. This shows Sudan welcoming the incident rather than denouncing or condemning it.

AKHBAR AL-YAWM said the Sudanese Government declares publicly that it follows good-neighbor and noninterference policies, but, at the same time, it may have contact with groups that favor violent overthrow. The paper called on the Sudanese Government to take these accusations seriously and to clear up the gray areas that make these accusations possible.

AKHBAR AL-YAWM appeals to the Sudanese Government to make Islam attractive, adding that the three countries advocating Islamic rule—Iran, Sudan, and Afghanistan—have failed to do this. The paper said it believes Egypt and other countries can coexist with Islamic rule in Sudan but they cannot tolerate anyone who works against their regional interests, in the name of Islam, nationalism, or socialism. The paper says Sudan must offer a good model of Islam internally, rather than seek to export it by revolutionary means.

AKHBAR AL-YAWM said Sudan must remember that Egypt limited its actions against the Sudanese regime. Egypt did not support the secession of the south, refused to take military action against Sudan, and refused to host the opposition conference that was held in Asmara. Further, the Egyptian ambassador there did not attend the conference's opening ceremony, which was attended by the U.S. ambassador and European ambassadors. The paper notes that this means Egypt has "controlled" its response to the Sudanese Government. The paper said the Sudanese Government must reciprocate this control.

Government Spokesman on Egyptian, U.S. Ties

95AF0075 London FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH in Arabic Apr 95 pp 30-31

[Interview with Culture and Information Minister 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat by Muhammad Taha Muhammad Ahmad in Khartoum; date not given — first two paragraphs are introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Culture and Information Minister 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat, official spokesman for the Sudanese Government, belongs to the new generation of Sudanese, whose political awareness was galvanized by the wound of the setback of June 1967. When the Sudanese capital embraced the slogan "the liberation of all Palestine, from the river to the sea," his generation cried out, "Jerusalem belongs to us, not the oppressors; woe unto them!"

In his office in the Culture and Information Ministry, we had the following dialogue:

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Ahmad] The [Arab-Israeli] settlement train has passed through some Arab capitals and is trying to popularize normalization at each stop — what is Khartoum's view? Is the climate not favorable for it, or is it a brilliant dawn in an overcast Arab world?

[Sabdarat] It is a known fact that all trains pass through organized stops. It is clear that it prefers to pass through the capitals of the confrontation states, given the proximity of Gaza and Jericho to Amman in Jordan, Beirut, and Damascus. Perhaps the Israeli enemy saw Khartoum as a distant place — they want to prey on those near to them. However, the reception the train has received in Palestine was strange. It was a security push toward an enforced normalization; it is a journey loaded and freighted by the Israeli enemy, which since the defeat of 1967 has imagined that our nation would welcome it with roses, being incapable of resistance and preferring idleness.

In Sudan, before and after 1967, we represented the meeting of the nation for resistance against the Zionist enemy. People remember the Khartoum Conference, which proclaimed the "three noes": no peace, no negotation, no recognition of Israel.

The Khartoum Conference represented the will of a nation that had lost a battle but not the war. Thus, that conference was the first warning shot in the Ramadan War of 1973, and I tell you we still believe the Arabs still agree, through the Arab League, to say no to the Israeli boasting that wants to make the region submit to it. So the settlement train in Khartoum has collided with the "noes" of Khartoum, and all the capitals will discover that a dead end awaits this settlement.

I say that Khartoum is a major station for fueling the liberation train for all of Palestine, primarily Jerusalem. Yes, all the usurped rights of all the Arabs and Muslims must be restored. The ground under this peace is shaky, because it is unreal. We constantly call upon the Arabs to mend their rifts and release the energies and abilities of the nation to wrest our rights from the Zionists' claws.

[Ahmad] In relations between Khartoum and Cairo, why is there no understanding after the troubles? You know that Zionist-crusader reconciliation in the framework of the new world order now encircles Egypt. Why isn't the problem of the disputed al-Halayib desert region solved with a Khartoum-Cairo meeting, as happened in 1967, preparatory to the Ramadan victory?

[Sabdarat] Yes, we are quite aware that the enemies of the nation are fishing in this troubled water; indeed it is they who troubled this water from the beginning. We in Sudan crave Arab unity and have even abolished Khartoum's borders with all Arab lands. However, Egypt wants to impose its presence by military force in Hala'ib, accuses Sudan of harboring terrorists, and has welcomed Sudanese opposition parties. Now there are positive signs that prompt optimism. If Cairo moves one inch toward us, we will move miles toward them. We welcome the Egyptian Government's retreat from holding elections in Shalatin and Abi-Ramad [as published], and we are even more optimisitic about the activity of the joint Sudanese-Egyptian ministerial committee to solve pending issues. We are optimistic when Nile Valley foreign ministers meet. In any case, we always say that this is only a passing summer cloud between us and our brothers in Egypt.

[Ahmad] It is said that the U.S. Administration made improved relations with the Sudanese Government conditional on the expulsion of some Palestinian factions in Sudan, in addition to Hizballah.

[Sabdarat] The United States praises without knowing; otherwise, how could it talk about this supposed presence of Hizballah in Sudan? Hizballah's actual and legitimate presence is in Lebanon. As to such Islamic Palestinian factions such as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad, they have a nominal political and media presence. There are some students pursuing learning in Sudanese universities. We cannot be stingy, even with learning, with the Palestinian people, which has been driven from its homeland. The United States wants to pressure us to abolish Islam, but it does not help oppressed people or lend a hand to struggling people. The Islamic world is, in its compassionate understanding, like a single body. If one part of it is unwell, the rest of it suffers with fever and insomnia. We know that Washington will never be pleased with Khartoum. In the holy Koran we read, "The Jews will not be pleased with thee, nor will the Christians, till thou follow their creed." [II.120]

[Ahmad] What about the charge that Sudan is involved in the UN headquarters plot in New York?

[Sabdarat] The constant U.S. provocation of Sudan, now that they have finished bombing Baghdad and embargoing Iraq and Libya, is aimed at preparing U.S. and global public opinion to be anti-Sudan. It was strange and rather suspicious for the whole Sudanese mission to the United Nations to be involved in blowing it up. It would have been a new Lockerbie, and it was devised by U.S. intelligence with the cooperation of an Egyptian agent named 'Imad Salim.

[Ahmad] It is clear that Israel is actually helping to make relations between Sudan and Eritrea tense. What is your position on this Israeli danger on your borders?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Sabdarat] We say that relations between Sudan and Eritrea are making progress. The peoples of this region are one, and we must not forget that Eritrea was the land of the first *hijrah* [emigration of the Prophet Muhammad]. The Christians there were tolerant of Islam and accepted its emigrants, and later accepted the creed. The Salvation Revolution is well aware of Eritrea's role in history, in the present, and the future. This is why we have taken part in helping the Eritrean revolution to achieve victory. We supported the establishment of the state, and Sudan is still providing shelter to many Eritreans. President Isais Afwerki knows very well that we do not deny this; otherwise, he would have been here in Khartoum before he became the ruler in Asmara. We hope he is aware of the danger of the conflict between two brotherly. states. We have been more aware of the dangers of Israel in the Horn of Africa since the emigration of the Falasha Jews left to become their human shields. Israel is trying to gain control over the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea. It is trying sow dissension between Sudan and its neighbors, because Sudan is the fortress of the Arabs and of Islam in Africa and the strategic enemy of Israel, thus Israel must try to exhaust it by their support of the mutiny in the south and the creation of problems between Sudan and its neighbors.

[Ahmad] Khartoum is hosting a new session of the Arab and Islamic Popular Conference. What matters are to be discussed in this round?

[Sabdarat] You know that the Popular Conference has no connection with the governments. I am the official spokesman of the Sudanese Government, not the official spokesman of the Conference. However, as a man involved in public work, I think the Conference will inevitably give victory to the causes of the Arab and Muslim peoples who suffer arrogant behavior. It is trying, through advice and consent, to put the nation on the right path. Let the peoples help apply pressure for the lifting of the embargoes on Iraq and Libya, mend the rifts beteen rival factions in Afghanistan, rebuild Somalia, encourage peaceful dialogue in the Arab and Islamic world, support the freedom fighters in Palestine and Bosnia, and resist the attack of the arrogant world order on Muslims.

Kassala Delegation Ready To Confront Eritrea

EA2807104095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 2245 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, the first vice president of the Republic, was briefed on preparations by the state of Kassala to confront the Eritrean leader's threats. He expressed his satisfaction at the patriotic efforts of the people of the state. He said this today when he met the people's delegation from Kassala State led by retired Maj. Gen. Abu-al-Qasim Ibrahim Muhammad, the state governor, at the Republican palace.

The delegation condemned the Eritrean leader's conspiracy against Sudan in hosting the so-called opposition at the Asmara conference. The delegation stressed the cohesiveness of the sons of Kassala State and their readiness to defend the creed and the homeland.

Activities at al-Merjiat Military Camp Described

BR2707144795 Madrid EL MUNDO in Spanish 27 Jul 95 pp 22, 64

[Report by Javier Mellado: "Dying for Allah"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum — The sand track penetrates the desert, runs alongside a few, gently sloping hills, and 40 km to the north of Khartoum ends in one of the hundreds of military training camps dotted throughout the country. Dressed in dusty, crumpled white uniforms, thousands of men run through military exercises on the large training ground that the sun converts into a boiler. Some of them are wearing white caps while others are bare-headed. Some of them have rubber shoes on while others are barefoot.

However, they all sing in unison: "Allah is great. There is only one God. We believe in victory or death in combat. We want to fight and be martyrs." They are the "Mujahidins," civilian volunteers and members of the National Defense Force [NDF], the Sudanese people's militia.

Muhammad Ahmed Omar, an engineer, teacher, and industry minister died two years ago in the southern war, fighting against the Christians for his country and for his religion. Mahmoud Shariff, the director general for energy, laid down his life in the same way. All "Mujahidins" who die in the "Jihad," the Holy War, are considered martyrs.

Each of the brigades making up the NDF is named after one of these martyrs of Islam. The Ubied Jatim brigade is currently training in the military camp of al-Merjiat. Among a group of young militiamen stands the stocky figure of Sulayman Sid Shariff. Dirty and sweaty, he explains in perfect English that he is an agronomic engineer, is 57 years old, has four daughters and is the adviser to the agriculture minister. In addition to English he also speaks Arabic, French, Italian, and Russian.

Sulayman has spent two months in another training camp learning shooting skills. He has been at the Al Merjiat base for five days learning how to throw hand grenades and use grenade launchers.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

He is not the only senior civil servant to parade around the Al Merjiat base with a gun in his hand. Attorney General Abderrahim Ibrahim is in the same brigade. He explained: "Everyone wants to belong to the NDF to serve God and Sudan. That is why we are invincible." He assures us that the ministers who are not soldiers are still involved in the Islamic militia, along with journalists, members of parliament, and lawyers.

The captain leading the Ubied Jatim brigade, Abdallah Husayn, says that the most important thing about military training is that "it teaches the people discipline, a basic pillar of national life. This is why we have military training in the schools and in all public institutions."

The NDF was created on 30 November 1989, five months after the victory of the National Salvation Revolution: "It was a seed sown by our President 'Umar al-Bashir that God has blessed, making it grow big and strong."

When, a few weeks ago, the Egyptian Army attacked Sudanese frontier positions in the disputed region of Halaib, 200,000 "Mujahidins" mobilized in a single day in the Red Sea state. Sudan has a total of 26 states.

The whole country is a swarm of military training camps through which more than a million people have already passed. Each and every one of these militiamen has sworn to fight to the death for Sudan and for Islam.

During the 45-90 days of military training, a Mujahidin will learn discipline and military techniques but will also dedicate a part of his time to reading up on the principles of Islam.

Men, women and, children... anyone can join the Mujahidin army. However, most of them, including all the civil servants working in the immense Sudanese administration, are "encouraged" to volunteer... if they want to hold on to their job, that is.

Eiman Abbas al-Boushi, an engineer who works for the National Electric Corporation, is one of these forced volunteers: "When they hinted that if I did not join the NDF then I could be viewed in a bad light by my superiors, I understood that I had no other choice even though I was not very attracted by the idea. However, I had two wives and five children to consider so I joined the Ubied Jatim brigade and now I am very pleased that I did."

It is not easy to chat in private with al-Boushi. He is continually being approached by comrades who embrace and congratulate him. The engineer explains: "It is just that, with the help of God, I won the brigade shooting competition and now I am very popular."

Thanks to his excellent aim, al-Boushi will receive, in addition to the admiration of the other soldiers, a gift from the hands of the president of the Republic himself. He says, with a broad grin: "It is usually an assault rifle or a pistol."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Qatar

Finance Minister Leaves on 'Short' Visit to Iraq

JN2807074795 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency Shaykh Muhammad Bin- Khalifah Al Thani, minister of finance, economy, and trade and his accompanying delegation left Doha this morning on a short visit to the sisterly Republic of Iraq. He will convey a message from His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the beloved amir of Qatar, to his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn.

The Qatari News Agency has learned that the message which will be conveyed by Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani deals with the good relations between the two countries and the means of promoting them in all areas.

His excellency was seen off at Doha International Airport by Ma'in al-'Ani, Iraqi charge d'affairs in Doha.

Saudi Arabia

Paper Says Israel 'Caused' Tel Aviv Bombing

JN2707183295 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 25 Jul 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Israel Caused the Tel Aviv Operation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East will continue to be "a strategic option" for all the Arab parties that are directly or indirectly taking part in the peace negotiations which have been held with Israel since the Madrid Conference that convened in October 1991.

The vital Arab demand, which represents the axis of the negotiations and the substance of the peace process, is that Israel should withdraw from each Arab inch occupied in the 5 June 1967 aggression.

Realizing this objective will also achieve the demands of all parties in terms of security, stability, and the creation of an appropriate political, economic, and social atmosphere for bilateral and collective cooperation. This cooperation in various fields concerning economic and social development will improve the welfare of all peoples in the region. This will also be in the interest of relations between regional and other states.

However, it seems to us, to all Arabs, and to international public opinion which is watching and following the peace negotiations with interest, that Israel's way of conducting the negotiations aims to obtain all gains in terms of peace, security, economy, trade, and all kinds of normalization with the Arab states without giving anything to the Arab parties.

Even with regard to the usurped rights, such as the occupied territories, Israel wants a price for returning them! Israel is behaving like the well-known usurer, the "merchant of Venice!" For Israel, political negotiations are only a profitable trade which knows no losses because its merchandise is the rights of others! Israel seeks trade, perhaps without paying any capital!

Hence, in its negotiations with the Arabs it procrastinates, bargains, and slows down the talks. Israel wastes time and bargains over the Arab rights. It also slows down the pace in order to waste valuable time which, it imagines, is an additional factor to support its conduct toward the Arabs.

As a result, 25 July 1995, which was agreed as a date for a historic meeting in Washington to sign an Israeli-Palestinian agreement on expanding the Palestinian self-rule to the occupied West Bank, has become a mere ordinary day! By this procrastination, Israel seems as if it wants to annoy some Arab parties until they ultimately become desperate and harbor a grudge against Israel, exactly like what happened in Tel Aviv yesterday, so that Israel can use this as a pretext to evade an agreed date, go back on a pledge, or retreat from its commitments.

Hence, yesterday's operation and its implications are considered to be of Israel's make and planning, regardless of the party that implemented it. This is so because Israel is the basic instigator of all the violence that takes place in Palestine.

Paper Hits International 'Collusion' on Bosnia

MM2807080295 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 24 Jul 95 p 1

[Editorial: "Bosnia: NATO Promises or Islamic Solution"]

[FBIS Translated Text] International indications regarding the Bosnian crisis confirm the new conviction that the war there will take a new course and perhaps enter a stage of conflict between religions, something the West always claimed it had overcome and something that it claimed was no longer a concern in its social structure and political programs, but the truth exposes the falsehood of that claim.

If one examines the alleged conflict at the recent London meeting, one would find that the Russians took a hard line and an intransigent position without getting any blame or even a mere objection to their position. That shows the extent of the collusion between the members of the roundtable and shows that if there were any differences they were just an exercise in face-saving, no more.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

All agree that there is no place on the European map for Muslims to enjoy a safe haven or have a state even the size of Luxembourg. That has been exposed with a policy in which London, Moscow, Bonn, and Washington exchanged roles. That is because the premise agreed upon in that crisis is that a fait accompli should be established even by force of arms. That is not just a gap exploited by the Serb forces. They [the Serbs] know what the West wants and know that there is no conflict of aims or methods so long as that covert purpose is fulfilled.

One cannot believe the talk about moving air power, selective strikes, and preparing additional NATO reserve forces, because the aim is to keep the situation in flux and let it almost ultimately end in containing the Bosnians within a territory that cannot absorb them and cannot raise them even to the level of a small state.

The Organization of the Islamic Conference has declared that the "arms embargo against Bosnia is invalid" and said that the Islamic states would take a different stand and would not go along with the embargo or regard it as valid.

Theoretically, that position is acceptable, but looking at the practical aspect we find that Bosnia is besieged on land without any outlets except through Croatia. That leaves the sea, which is patrolled by NATO and Russian fleets, making it an impossible route for getting arms to the Bosnians, unless we consider the possibility of the Islamic states giving up their arms within the UN forces there. That would not be an easy thing to do even if orders were issued for the implementation of such a step because the states in question would be watching closely and may even besiege these forces.

The Islamic world can use scores of ways, such as knocking on the doors of the states neighboring Yugoslavia, which is still willing to collaborate with anyone wishing to give, or the doors of others. We saw how the Iraqi war opened the arsenals of East and West, so long as there were material benefits. That applies to Bosnia if financial aid funds and plans were produced that would penetrate the embargo lines and reach distant places.

But it is wrong to subject Bosnia to a mere legal justification, and for the Islamic states to say that they are not committed to implement it [the embargo] and to just stop at the theoretical limits would change nothing and would perhaps lead to the termination of any Bosnian existence in the former Yugoslavia, while the whole world looks on.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Al-Sahhaf Urges UN To Honor Obligations

JN2707193395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1838 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rabat, 27 Jul (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has urged the UN Security Council [UNSC] to meet its obligations by lifting the blockade and ending the suffering of the Iraqi people that has been going one for more than five years now.

In a dialogue with the Rabat-based Moroccan newspaper ANWAL, the foreign minister said that the UN Security Council should lift the blockade on Iraq because Resolution No. 687, and Provision 22 in particular, constitutes a contract between two parties. He added: When Iraq carries out its duty, the UNSC should reciprocate.

He also said that if the Iraqi leadership and people feel that there is no use in cooperation with the UN Special Commission and the Security Council, if the second party does not do its own part of the job, and if the UNSC does not honor its obligations, all forms of cooperation will end.

The minister stressed that the report to be presented by Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission, should be positive because Iraq has been fully cooperating with him and because it will give him all information on its biological warfare program, which it started in 1985, which ended in October 1990, and which no longer exists.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf also asserted that he who tries to procrastinate will be exposed.

He said France, Russia, China, and a large number of nonpermanent UNSC member states have worked out a whole draft law, and they are waiting for the completion of work between Iraq and the Special Commission and for Ekeus' report in order to present it to the council. He said the draft law calls for lifting the siege on Iraq.

He stressed that any U.S. attempt to use the veto will be useless because the draft resolution will be presented several times, and the siege will erode and will expire by itself.

He denounced the U.S. position which entirely conflicts with the UNSC resolutions and seeks to obstruct the council reciprocal commitments toward Iraq.

On the contacts he carries out and on the Iraqi contacts it will make with the Gulf stats, al-Sahhaf said: Contacts are going on with Qatar, the Sultanate of Oman, and Bahrain, and we hope that contacts will begin with the United Arab Emirates soon, and we seek this and do not exclude any party, including Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

The foreign minister hailed Iraqi relations with Morocco and Qatar and cooperation with them, and said the Moroccan position is based on nationalist policy that openly calls for lifting the siege.

He added that Amir of Qatar Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani and the Qatari officials showed great understanding and readiness to make the others realize that they have interest in developing their relations with Iraq.

The minister said: The Americans are the cause of problems in northern Iraq because they plant chaos in the region so that it will be a hotbed of conspiracies against Iraq.

He emphasized that Turkey's assistance to the U.S. design will cause problems to it and the Turkish Government's position will backfire.

Returns Home From Arab Tour

JN2707200595 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, envoy of President leader Saddam Husayn and foreign minister, returned to Baghdad today after conveying messages from President leader Saddam Husayn to Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, amir of Qatar; King Hassan II of Morocco; and King Husayn of Jordan.

The messages dealt with the latest developments of the relationship between Iraq and the UN Security Council on the unjust blockade, particularly relating to the results of Iraq's positive cooperation with the UN Special Commission.

The amir of Qatar, the Moroccan king, and the Jordanian monarch asked the envoy of President leader Saddam Husayn to convey their greetings to his excellency. They also expressed their understanding of Iraq's positions and their sympathy with Iraq.

UN Announces Rolf Ekeus To Visit 4-6 Aug

JN2707201595 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] It was officially announced at the United Nations today that Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, will visit Iraq on 4 August.

The deputy official UN spokesman said Ekeus visit to Baghdad will last until 6 August to discuss with the Iraqi officials the complete and final report on the Iraqi biological program.

A biological team from the UN Special Commission visited Baghdad last week and received a copy of this

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

report. At the end of August, Ambassador Ekeus is expected to submit a report to the Security Council on the results of his coming visit to Baghdad and of the Special Commission's investigations into the past Iraqi biological researches.

Opposition Radio on SAIRI-Khaddam Meeting

JN2707161695 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, held talks with Syrian Vice president 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus on 26 July. Our sources in Damascus add that his eminence informed the Syrians of a new plan to overthrow the regime of the tyrant in which the Iraqi Army will have a big role.

The source said that the two men reviewed the tense situation in the country and discussed the latest developments in the Iraqi opposition movement. The two sides agreed to hold a meeting next week to consider the results of their discussions.

Al-Hakim also held meetings in Damascus with Iraqi opposition representatives. Discussions concentrated on escalating the opposition efforts and establishing a unified field command to lead the jihad to topple the defeated Saddamist regime. He stressed the need for the unity of the Iraqi territory and people and for renouncing petty differences at this sensitive juncture in order to save and deliver our people.

His eminence praised the heroic stand of the people of al-Ramadi Governorate because their uprising against the regime had a great effect on the future of the impending change in Iraq.

The media continue to shed light on the current moves of the Iraqi opposition in Damascus because of their extreme importance, given that the Saddmist regime has lost its political weight on the regional and international levels and that the international community is now looking for a new Iraqi regime to ensure people's freedom and dignity.

Paris Paper: 'Udayy Occupies Powerful Position

95LH0207A Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 2 Jun 95 pp 16-18

[Unattributed article: "Baghdad: For These Reasons Has Tariq Aziz Disappeared; North Korean Experts Apply Kim Il-song's Experiment to Saddam Husayn; Secrets of Wars Among Officials' Sons Over Commercial Transactions; Story of Downfall of Man of Iraqi Diplomacy and Rise of Saddam's Private Secretary; Udayy Commands Commando Units Specialized in Street and City Warfare"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The latest UN Security Council meeting to examine the blockade imposed on Iraq was a dual surprise. It is true that no Iraqi, whether an official or an ordinary citizen, was surprised by the sanctions that have been extended for the 25th time without any change, especially since Saddam had rejected resolution 986, which called for permitting the sale of limited quantities of oil valued at $1 billion every six months. However, Iraqi officials were surprised by the absence of any international party supporting them in New York.

Neither Russia, France, nor China made any of the diplomatic moves they had ordinarily made at previous meetings to demand the acknowledgment of a positive development in the Iraqi position and, consequently, to exert efforts to alleviate the sanctions, even if only partially.

All of Baghdad's international allies backed down this time and joined the intransigent U.S. position demanding adherence to all Security Council resolutions and the implementation of these resolutions to the last letter, especially since the UN envoy has revealed that Baghdad continues to conceal important confidential information, particularly on the fate of 17 tons of materials used to make biological and chemical weapons.

Baghdad has considered this position a defeat for its diplomacy and a serious loss to its international credit among its "friends" who had forced Washington two months earlier to threaten to use its veto and to send Madeleine Albright, its delegate to the United Nations, on a tour of the Security Council members to pressure them with inducements and threats in order to maintain the UN blockade against Iraq.

But the second surprise is the more important one, considering that it reflects a change that has its ramifications, meanings, and dues payable within the Iraqi Government itself. These ramifications and dues payable are tied basically to the first surprise, namely the Iraqi diplomacy's defeat, and to the future of Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, a man who has embodied this diplomacy in the world since the first Gulf war.

Before Baghdad started confronting the news reports and rumors that had been circulating in the salons of "close associates" about Tariq Aziz's falling star, UN circles in New York were moving in this direction, having been surprised by the arrival of Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf at the UN premises to take up his first "defense" of the sanctions dossier that had been tied to Tariq Aziz's name for five years.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

If New York proceeded on the basis of a sign indicating the "isolation" of Tariq Aziz, trying to understand and to keep up pace with the transformations and changes that this isolation reflects within the Iraqi regime, then information coming from Baghdad recounts interesting details asserting that the Iraqi deputy prime minister "has been punished," that he has been deprived of his powers, and that he has been ousted, though unofficially. Baghdad's salons circulate these days reports that talk about the "disappearance" of Aziz from the arena, noting that the man who is primarily responsible for Iraqi diplomacy and who is close to Saddam Husayn is living now in a state of frustration; that he has retreated from the limelight to his residence; and that he even boycotts and does not attend cabinet sessions. In addition to what is signified by the movements of the extraordinarily active al-Sahhaf, who has been dispatched to New York, regarding Aziz' removal from the sanctions dossier, observers have noticed that Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan is the man who recently headed an Iraqi delegation to Indonesia. One should keep in mind that the delegation's makeup and the importance of this major Islamic country make it logical that Aziz should have been the man for this mission.

Problem With Udayy

But the more important question is: Why has Tariq Aziz lost his place with his friend Saddam Husayn so quickly, and what are the reasons that made it necessary to "lift his hand" from a dossier on which Saddam Husayn is the final decisionmaker, as everybody knows? Everybody also knows that Tariq Aziz was no more than the "mailman" who carried and implemented higher directives with absolute honesty. There is no doubt that a truth that everybody knows has played a role in emphasizing that "there is more to the matter than meets the eye" and that punishing Aziz by withdrawing the UN sanctions dossier from his control is part of a new Iraqi strategy. Domestic political plots and machinations, disagreements between the regime's leaders, and the new plans to confront a future that looks bleaker day after day overlap in this new strategy.

Baghdad's reports assert that the evident and weighty reason given to justify Tariq Aziz' exclusion is that he is the man responsible for the abysmal failure to persuade the Americans and the world to lift the sanctions against Baghdad despite the "rosy path" that Saddam Husayn has opened for him, the free movement he has given him, and the resources he has put at his disposal. Those knowledgeable in the secrets of what has happened say that people who are closer to Saddam Husayn than Tariq Aziz have played a major role in inciting the Iraqi president against his special envoy, who is specialized in difficult missions, and have succeeded to persuade the president that this veteran diplomat has failed in his mission. Informed sources point out that Udayy, Saddam's firstborn son, is the man responsible for depriving Aziz of Saddam's "blessing." Udayy is considered now the regime's strongest security and political figures. The sources note that Udayy had launched a devastating campaign against Tariq Aziz in BABIL and that, since the middle of last year, this paper has customarily held Aziz responsible for the failure to accomplish any results after each extension of the UN sanctions.

Informed sources in Baghdad have asserted that the Tariq Aziz-Udayy Saddam Husayn dispute turned from a "political dispute" to a personal dispute nearly seven months ago because of a business dispute between officials' sons. The near and the far in Baghdad know that the Iraqi president's son has, as a result of the blockade, become the owner of the country's biggest business empire—one that deals in imports and exports, oil, transportation, foodstuffs, and other things. They also know that the sons of most officials have entered the business world from a broad door, reaping astronomical profits and taking advantage of the prevailing economic conditions.

It seems that one of these business transactions led to an intense between Udayy and Aziz [sentence as published]. Reliable sources in Baghdad assert that a sharp business dispute erupted between Lu'ay Khayrallah and Ziyad Tariq Aziz. Lu'ay is the son of Hajj Khayrallah Talfah, the Iraqi president's maternal uncle. He is also the brother of Sajidah Khayrallah, Saddam's wife, and of Adnan Khayrallah, a former defense minister who died in a plane crash during the Iraq-Iran war. It is well known that Lu'ay Khayrallah is very close to Udayy Saddam Husayn and is Udayy's life friend because the two are nearly the same age, even though Lu'ay is the brother of Udayy's mother. Thanks to this friendship, Lu'ay went into business with Udayy and ended up taking over a number of Lu'ay's businesses and transactions. One of these transactions led to a sharp dispute with Ziyad Tariq Aziz, who has also entered the business world.

It seems that the dispute between Lu'ay and Ziyad became so intense that it motivated Udayy to intervene, calling Ziyad and rebuking him severely. Tariq Aziz resented his son's harassment, of course, and was displeased by Udayy's inappropriate conduct. Tariq did not wish, however, to take this issue all the way up to Saddam, viewing it as an issue that did not merit such a step, especially since he knew Udayy's place with his father. Aziz was content to express his displeasure to some close associates, one of whom presented the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

issue that upset Aziz to Abd Hamid Hammud, Saddam Husayn's private secretary and the only man who enjoys such favor with the president that he can bring up such a sensitive issue concerning Udayy with the president himself.

Saddam Husayn did actually inquire about this problem from Udayy during a visit by the latter to the palace. After the president's son presented to his father details of the dispute between Lu'ay and Ziyad, Saddam urged his son to act deliberately and calmly and to avoid provoking problems with Tariq Aziz' son.

'Udayy's Revenge

Even though the business dispute was ended at that point and was considered to be settled at the president's instructions, its consequences continued to escalate and contributed to shaking trust between Tariq Aziz and Udayy, who resented the fact that the dispute had been conveyed to his father. As a result, hostility between the two sides escalated.

During that period, it was noticed that Udayy launched a campaign criticizing Iraq's foreign policy and that, in his private meetings and among his friends, he assaulted Tariq Aziz, accusing him of failure to lift the sanctions and saying that all his visits to New York had produced no result. Informed sources say that Udayy reiterated his criticism of Tariq Aziz in front of his father. It was also noticed that he intentionally compared Aziz' failures with the energetic and effective diplomacy in which Barzan al-Tikriti, his uncle and father-in-law, engaged in Geneva, where Barzan has succeeded to revive his network of contacts and to restore life to the pro-Iraq lobbies in several European countries. Barzan is also behind the rush foreign companies have made for Baghdad.

The campaign against Tariq Aziz became sharper when it was adopted by BABIL, which is controlled by Udayy. When this happened, the deputy prime minister felt that there was a coordinated campaign against him and that the charged atmosphere and the instigation against him had reached the republican palace. Upon his return from New York in the middle of last April, Aziz discovered that there was a "plot" against him. At the time, Security Council members, especially those inclined in Iraq's favor, were drafting resolution 986 in a way that would have permitted the Iraqi people's hardship to be lifted. After lengthy negotiations, give-and-take, and concerted contacts with Baghdad, Aziz agreed to the draft resolution and assured the international parties concerned that the final draft would be accepted this time. Upon his return, Aziz was surprised to see the Iraqi regime reject the resolution and launch a violent campaign against it. So he linked this experience to his previous experiences when he had discovered that, every time he visited New York, "internal Iraqi factions" spiked the works and the regime adopted measures that blocked his mission and made it impossible to accomplish, making him look like the "last one to know." In wake of the April activity and the subsequent campaigns launched by Udayy and others against him, Aziz became convinced that the process of "embarrassment intended to oust him" had been cooking on a hot fire. What drew his attention was also the fact that Udayy's faction and his media were especially keen on saddling him alone with the burden of the failure to eliminate the sanctions. At the same time, the deputy prime minister felt that his position was weakening by the day and that he was a favorite with the head of the regime no longer. Whereas he had been visiting the palace more than three times weekly, he found it difficult to get an appointment to meet the president and discuss with him, as usual, the absolutely most important Iraqi issue. A few weeks ago, Aziz succeeded to secure an appointment with the president. But reports assert that the session was "cool" and that it lacked the warmth to which Aziz had become accustomed in his previous meetings with Saddam. On the day after this session, the signs began to get clearer and clearer.

While noticing that Minister al-Sahhaf's role was being given an extraordinary boost, Aziz was notified that Iraq's UN Delegate Nizar Hamdun was also being given broad powers to deal with the sanctions issue. Also, "it was communicated to him" that the dossier had become totally confined to the presidency, keeping in mind that the dossier had always been under Saddam's control. But instructions were issued this time by Abd Hamid Hammud, President Saddam Husayn's private secretary, placing the dossier under the direct supervision of Qusayy Saddam Husayn. Reports affirm that Saddam's secretary is Baghdad's rising star these days. After being awarded the rank of major general, Abd [Hamid Hammud] al-Tikriti is considered minister extraordinary and, next to Udayy and Qusayy, the individual closest to Saddam. High-ranking political and military officials fear him. Observers of these developments in Baghdad's top power centers note that Barzan al-Tikriti, who had coordinated with Tariq Aziz and had good relations with him, has begun to overstep Aziz and to contact the presidential office directly. This situation also applies to all ambassadors and high-ranking Foreign Ministry officials.

Qusayy's first act was to request from Nizar Hamdun a detailed report on all that had taken place in the blockade negotiations and on the Iraqi weak points that have played a role in the failure to persuade the Americans. Iraqi sources note that the report submitted

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

by Hamdun to the presidential office contributed, or was used to contribute, to strengthen the conviction that Aziz had not lived up to the expectations and that he had failed to achieve "accomplishments." Nizar Hamdun coupled his report with proposals and an alternative working plan, a part of which was leaked to be used in the campaign against Aziz.

In Search of an Islamic Cover

All these givens have motivated those knowledgeable in the threads of Baghdad's game to say that the countdown for Tariq Aziz' downfall was made quickly and that the star of the internationally best-known Iraqi official has actually begun to fall. However, the same sources assert that the reason for Aziz's ouster is not his failure to lift the sanctions, especially since everybody knows that the deputy prime minister was no more than an executor of orders from which he was keen to swerve not one iota. These sources say that the real reason for Tariq Aziz's ouster is the embarrassing condition in which the regime has found itself and that has worsened greatly since resolution 986 was rejected. When this resolution was rejected, general resentment spread among the Iraqi people who now hold the regime responsible for its failure to lift their hardship and for its persistent intransigence at a time when living conditions are worsening, and reflecting on the security conditions. It was noticed for the first time that the mass demonstrations that were staged at the end of April to denounce resolution 986 were nearly confined to Ba'th Party members and to security and intelligence men. A large number of citizens dared to confront the demonstrations, one of which was interspersed by clashes with Iraqis who expressed their resentment of rejection of the resolution for the purchase of food and drugs.

While regime circles try to belittle significance of the absence of Aziz from the arena, saying one time that he is "sick and exhausted" and another time that Baghdad has worked with premeditation to reduce the level of the delegation that represents it in New York, Iraqi sources have assured AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI that the regime has a new strategy and that it is not unlikely that Aziz's ouster is a part of this strategy.

These sources point out that, insofar as failure to lift the sanctions is concerned, the Iraqi regime finds itself now in an embarrassing situation with the people. It sees that this situation demands a "scapegoat" so it can be saddled with the responsibility for this failure and so the government can have a chance to gain time in order to give the people the impression that they need to "extend their patience" and to expect changes now that the "official concerned" has been replaced. Informed Iraqi sources go as far as saying that Aziz has also paid the price of his being a Christian. The sources add that Saddam, who has been following an Islamic course for sometime in what his followers characterize as the "phase of faith," believes that "putting distance" between himself and Tariq Hanna Aziz will contribute to the difficult process of persuading the Iraqi people to give him the "Islamic cover" required for the coming phase.

Saddam's Commandos

Even though Saddam Husayn controls government firmly, international and local observers agree unanimously that the Iraqi president is facing a serious worsening in the country's security conditions and growing popular wrath.

In this context, no month passes in which the Iraqi president does not make changes that involve the dismissal of a military commander, a governor, a director, or a minister. It is true that some view such changes as just a process by which Saddam Husayn keeps his sword hanging over everybody's head, especially officials' heads. But, at the same time, the process reflects a decreasing trust, even in people close to the regime, some of whom are citizens of Tikrit. There is no doubt that confining responsibilities to a small team surrounding Saddam Husayn, embodied in the Qusayy-'Udayy-'Abd trio, reflects this climate of anxiety. For weeks, observers have been carefully examining the new powers gained by Udayy, especially his formation of the Saddam Commando Battalions. Reports assert that these "battalions," which are trained to be "very special commando units," reflect the security gaps from which the regime suffers, despite its numerous security and intelligence agencies. Some see in Saddam's Commando Battalions a reserve behind the Republican Guard in a phase in which suspicions about the guards' loyalty have increased in wake of recent barracks' moves that have been characterized as a coup attempt.

But what has drawn the observers' attention most is the level of training that Saddam's Battalions undergo. In addition to being harsh and difficult, it is evident that this training focuses on preparing commando units specialized in city and street warfare. Field exercises are conducted according to plans that enable these units to deploy in all of Baghdad's streets and quarters in less than 1.5 hours. Some Western reports speak of the presence of North Korean officers who help the special forces' officers supervise the training of Saddam's Commandos. These reports note that the training is focused on concerted brainwashing and mobilization processes. North Korean experts have mastered these processes by virtue of their distinguished experiment

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

in training in their own country special units harboring blind loyalty bordering on idolatry to the person of the late President Kim Il-song. This is why sources view the phenomenon of Saddam's Commandos with concern and consider these commandos very dangerous militias. In the final phases, the elements of these commandos are chosen from among those who are absolutely loyal to Saddam and Udayy so they will be the new "striking force" that protects the president and that gets priority not only over the unreliable Ba'th Party militias but also over the Republican Guard forces and over some units of the special forces.

But does this mean that Tariq Aziz's political course been ended by Udayy? People knowledgeable in Saddam's psyche, his method of "reward and punishment," and his tactic of changing and toppling the heads around him do not find it unlikely that the deputy prime minister may reappear suddenly side by side with the president. These people say that this is not the first time that Saddam has ousted some close associates for a variety of reasons and that the Iraqi president is often keen on subjecting close associates to trial periods to test the degree of their loyalty and psychological steadfastness. More than one military and political leader have been subjected to this trial and then reinstated. Perhaps this is why Aziz remains silent and why he is content to emphasize "his exhaustion and illness." Meanwhile, his adversaries avoid expressing their true sentiments, preferring to watch and wait.

Saddam Called 'Real' Threat to Israel

95LH0195A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 20 May 95 pp 1-2

[Editorial: "Without Saddam Husayn, Arabs Will Never Be Able To Put Up Resistance Again; Iraq's Threat to Israel;' U.S. Veto 84' Is Coming"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite the settlements that have opened the doors of numerous Arab countries to the Zionist enemy who is hiding behind the "peace slogans" and even though Iraq has been preoccupied for the past five years in confronting the blockade and fighting its severe pressures, Tel Aviv continues to consider Iraq a real threat.

How? Why all this concern with Iraq? The Zionist opinion in this regard is obvious, and it has been revealed repeatedly by high-ranking Zionist officials. The latest statement in this regard has been made by "Israeli" Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. Last Thursday, Peres delivered an address to the French Senate Foreign Affairs Committee in which he said, "Iraq continues to be a real threat to Israel."

But, where does the Iraqi danger or threat lie? In Iraq's weapons? In its missiles, whose effectiveness Israel has tried? Or is it in some other force that constitutes a secret of the Iraqi people's greatness in this age that is flocking to the U.S.-Zionist humiliation pot?

In his statement, which was included in the French Senate Foreign Relations Committee's communiqu, Peres said, "Iraq's threat is tied to the personality of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn." This is why the committee communiqu cast doubt on the possibility of improved relations with Iraq.

This is also why the "Israeli" foreign minister emphasizes the importance that his government attaches to maintaining nuclear ambiguity to justify its position toward the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty!

What do we conclude from all this?

First, the settlements or settlement channels opened between the Zionist entity and several Arab countries have not been able to reassure the Zionists about the "future of their entity" or to convince them that the "political, economic, and security plans" are anything more than "paper tigers."

Second, Iraq's preoccupation with its fight against the blockade and its ceaseless and ever-intensifying struggle to foil the conspiratorial U.S. schemes and to confront the pressures masked behind UN Security Council and UN special committee resolutions—Iraq's preoccupation with all this has not removed the "Iraqi threat" to "Israel," according to Peres who used this phrase to clarify what is signified by Iraq's presence and by the potency of Iraq's message at the Arab and Islamic level.

Third, the Zionists know well where the source of "Iraq's threat" lies. They have had experience with President Saddam Husayn's leadership for more than a quarter century, and they are aware of the dimensions of this leadership's capability to exert influence at the Arab and Islamic levels and at the level of all countries of the world. He is the only leader whose name continues to roar with Palestine's name—"Long live Palestine, Arab and free." He is also the only Arab leader building an Arab society that believes more in its dignity than in its sustenance and more in its freedom than in its welfare—a society that believes that the banner of the mother of all battles, i.e., "Allah is great," is the banner that will triumph, with God's will and not with the permission of any man.

We say: This is why the Zionists will continue to be worried about their entity and will continue to live with the obsession of the "Iraqi threat." They will not be deceived, as some capitulationist regimes have been

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

deceived, by the "settlements" ploy. Zionists are the ones who devised this ploy and drafted its scenarios, with U.S. sponsorship and with support from parties that have found themselves in an inevitable political quandary after years of support for "Israeli-Arab peace plans," or failure to oppose such plans.

The above is epitomized in what happened at the session the Security Council held last Thursday morning when 14 permanent and temporary members supported a UN resolution demanding that the Zionist entity abolish its measures for the confiscation of 53 hectares of land in the venerable Jerusalem. Meanwhile, U.S. Delegate Madelene Albright alone opposed this resolution and used her veto to block it.

Britain's BBC television network acknowledged that the United States was completely isolated when vote on the resolution was taken at the Security Council, especially since France, Russia, China, and Britain voted for the resolution.

It is futile to say here that the U.S. position constitutes a serious precedent or that Zionist influence controls U.S. foreign policies, as it is futile to note what is said about U.S. partiality to "Israel." For decades, the reality has pointed out these facts clearly. However, a statement by an official source at the Ministry of Culture and Information pointed out something significant regarding "some Arabs and Muslims." The source has said that the United States gives no weight or respect to the regimes involved in the capitulationist process because to gain the Zionist lobby's support is much more important to President Clinton than these regimes and than Arab and Muslim rights.

This is the manifest truth, which cannot be concealed by all the visible and hidden curtains of "plans, solutions, and negotiations." If Washington paid the slightest attention to those who have tied themselves and their fates to it, it would have overlooked a UN resolution on some Palestinian land. But the "wishes" of the capitulationist regimes are one thing, and the "international conspiratorial U.S.-Zionist scheme" against Arabs and Muslims is something else.

The United States has actually thrown its "friends and allies," especially those who took part in the 30-state aggression against Iraq, into an extremely sensitive and scandalous crisis. If those who can still back away from their mad rush into the U.S.-Zionist scheme fail to do so, they will undoubtedly be confronted, even if after a while, with a condition that will make them unable to say even a single word before their peoples. If they fail to back away, they will most likely be stoned upon their departure, as the Zionists have been stoned daily for years.

To further clarify matters to those who "hope" for something from the U.S.-Zionist-reactionary alliance, we remind them that the United States carries on with its process to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to the venerable Jerusalem and that the Zionists, as emphasized by their UN delegate, will carry on with their decision to confiscate Palestinian lands. As for the veto used by Albright recently, it is, as the Ministry of Culture and Information official spokesman has said, the 83d veto used by the United States in favor of "Israel" and against UN Security Council resolutions. The 82d veto was used five years ago, on 31 May 1990 specifically, against a resolution calling for the creation of an international committee to investigate "Israeli" practices against Palestinian territories' inhabitants.

As for the advocates of capitulation who deal with "wishes," which are the goods of the dead, as the saying goes, they will be surprised by veto No. 84 if they remain captives of their servility to the Zionist U.S. Administration and if they continue to ignore what they must do for the nation's fundamental issues, led by the issue of the continued blockade against Iraq—the land that can tip the scales in favor of Arab power over others. Iraq is also the land where the great Saddam Husayn stands, supported by his people. Without Saddam Husayn, the Arabs will never be able to put up resistance again.

Irrigation Minister Meets Sudanese Counterpart

JN2507195495 Baghdad INA in English 1355 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, July 26, INA—Iraqi and Sudanese ministers of irrigation discussed bilateral cooperation here on Wednesday [26 July].

During the meeting, Iraqi Minister Nizar Jum'ah al-Qasir briefed his Sudanese counterpart Ya'qub Abu-Shurah on the construction drive launched by the Iraqi people to build dams and regulators and dig new rivers to provide farms with water without seeking help from foreign companies.

For his part, the Sudanese minister expressed appreciation of the achievement of the Iraqi people, particularly in the field of irrigation.

U.S. Blamed for Situation in Kurdistan

JN2707112795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0655 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 27 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH says the U.S. Administration has deliberately sought to create an abnormal situation by establishing the so-called Operation Provide

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Comfort or no-fly zone and by directly interfering to obstruct the 1991 national dialogue, which sought to entrench the autonomy experience.

In an article published today, the newspaper adds that Washington deliberately played the Kurdish card once again in order to raise a media clamor, continue the embargo, and try to distort Iraq's image, employing double standards in dealing with the Kurdish issue. This was obvious in Washington's insolent support for the Turkish incursion into northern Iraq and in its legitimization of Ankara's persecution of Turkish Kurds at a time when it was shedding crocodile tears over the Iraqi Kurds.

The newspaper notes that the abnormal situation and bloody fighting in the Kurdistan autonomous region are not only regrettable but also raise many questions about the situation in the northern part of the homeland, which has turned into a battlefield and an area for agents and spies. Those harmed are our Kurdish people, who are suffering from the absence of security and order and social chaos.

The newspaper stresses that the U.S. conspiracy tools in the northern part of the homeland, represented by the hireling Jalali and Talabani cliques, have never learned from the lessons of the past and from what is going on in the lobbies of U.S. policy. They failed to learn these lessons at a time when the voice of truth, represented by President Saddam Husayn's advice after the chapter of treason, warned against the consequences of drifting behind the game Washington is playing in its open hostility to Iraq.

Concluding its article, the newspaper notes that with the approach of the date for lifting the embargo, whether willingly or unwillingly, Washington is about to abandon its agent tools in northern Iraq. Therefore, a disgraceful fate awaits all agents and those who are tampering with Iraq's unity and sovereignty. The paper says there is still time to benefit from the president's call on all those who deviated from the right path to return to the base of virtue and nationalism.

League Delegate Denies Baghdad Holding Kuwaiti POW's

JN2607200595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Jul (INA)—Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraqi permanent representative to the Arab League, has stated that there are no Kuwaiti or non-Kuwaiti prisoners held in Iraq. He indicated that this issue is being discussed within the context of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] as an issue of of MIA's rather than POW's.

In a dialogue on inter-Arab reconciliation conducted by Cairo AL-AHRAM with several political figures, including Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid; Badr Hammam, Egyptian assistant foreign minister in charge of inter-Arab ties; and Mustafa al-Faqi, ambassador at the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Najm added that Iraq freed all Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti POW's through the ICRC when the 30-state aggression came to a halt.

Dr. Najm indicated that Iraq is cooperating with the ICRC seriously in the search for the MIA's, and providing all the necessary information that could help close the file of this politicized issue in accordance with the established international norms usually used to address such issues.

Dr. Najm pointed out that Iraq is extremely keen on achieving Arab solidarity. Iraq constantly calls for promoting Arab endeavors so that the Arabs may meet the challenges posed to them, safeguard the higher interests and pan-Arab security, and avert foreign intervention in inter-Arab affairs, Dr. Najm maintained.

For his part, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said that the Arab League views the Iraqi decision to recognize Kuwait and the border demarcation as an important and serious step toward an inter-Arab reconciliation. He indicated that the Arab League is contributing to the efforts to achieve a blanket Arab reconciliation in order to promote Arab solidarity and clear Arab atmospheres.

Badr Hammam said that strenuous efforts must be made to achieve Arab reconciliation, given the fact that the Iraq sanctions are on their way to being modified. He indicated that Iraq is committed to the relevant international resolutions. Hence, a change in the stand toward this issue is extremely necessary. He pointed out that a settlement of bilateral Arab disputes will make genuine contributions to the efforts to achieve a reconciliation.

Dr. Mustafa al-Faqi underlined the need to achieve a blanket Arab reconciliation, saying that the Arab nation must let bygones be bygones and aim to entrench their unity and mobilize their resources so that they may cope with the challenges posed to them and realize their potentials.

11-30 Jul Airspace Violations Protested to League

JN2707141395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1210 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 27 Jul (INA)—U.S., British, and French aircraft violated Iraqi airspace from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait from 11 to 20 July.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

In a letter delivered to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid by Iraq's permanent delegate to the Arab League, Iraq said that these aircraft had carried out 569 hostile sorties from these bases.

The letter says that these violations pose a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

Iraq's permanent delegate requested the Arab League to inform all Arab countries about these regrettable realities.

Letter to UN Denounces 'Hostile' Acts by U.S.

JN2507185195 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1758 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 25 Jul (INA)- Iraq has strongly denounced the hostile and provocative U.S. acts, and held the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers fully responsible for their participation in acts of aggression against Iraq and for all the material damage inflicted on and the security, economic, political, and moral threats to Iraq and the Iraqi people.

This came in a letter acting Foreign Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi sent today to Gerardo Martinez Blanco, UN Security Council president and Honduran ambassador to the United Nations.

In his letter, the acting foreign minister included detailed information on the hostile and provocative acts which are carried out by the U.S. warplanes, taking off from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

He said that the U.S. warplanes resumed hostile and provocative acts, such as breaking the sound barrier, dropping flares, and provoking and intercepting Iraqi merchant ships in Iraq's territorial waters.

In his letter to the UN Security Council president, Hamid Yusuf Hammadi reviewed these hostile acts which were carried out during the period from 4 January to 30 June 1995. He said that these acts included the dropping of flares on the areas of al-Qush, al-Badriyah, Faydah, and al-Suwayf in the governorates of Ninawa, Dahuk, and al-Basrah.

He added that during this period, the U.S. aircraft broke the sound barrier over al-Qurnah in the Maysan Governorate, over the petrochemical industries plant in the al-Basrah Governorate, and over the cities of al-Nasiriyah, Qal'at Salih, and al-Samawah, something which spread panic and terror among citizens, and caused material damage.

He pointed out that the Iraqi merchant ships were also exposed to these hostile and provocative acts, such as what has happened with the water tanker, "al-Tharthar"; the fishing boat, "al-Bay'ah"; and the ship "al-Fida'".

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Foreign Ministry Confirms Talks To Resume 30 Jul

TA2707144695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Foreign Ministry confirms that full-scale discussions with the Palestinians will resume 30 July. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that chief delegates Uri Savir and Ahmad Quray' agreed on this in a meeting they held. Our correspondent says that it appears that the talks will be held in Elat.

Peres: Syria To Pay Price for Halting Peace

TA2807095395 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Jul 95 p A2

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says that Syria has recently paused and is even "moving in reverse," adding that if it continues to have regrets it will be the one to pay the price.

Addressing the Hakfar Hayaroq Forum [Labor dove group] headed by Knesset Member [MK] Hagay Merom in Tel Aviv, Peres said that Israel "has gone the longest possible distance in order to meet Syria half way, but the Syrians have recently backtracked somewhat."

The foreign minister made it clear he has not changed his opinion on the Syrian issue, but "if Syria slows down the process and if it has regrets every Monday and Thursday, it will pay the price."

The foreign minister added: "I believe that Syria has no other option than to proceed toward peace. Israel is not without such an option. Syria has lost three significant suppliers: the Soviet Union in the sphere of strategy; the Arab states in terms of coalitions; and Israel for providing it excuses for not making peace. It no longer has any excuses, coalitions, or weapons. What will it do? If al-Asad wants to proceed slowly, let him do so. If he wants to proceed quickly, then he should proceed without delay."

Peres added: "Israel must pursue the peace process until the last moment without any apologies, shrinking, or explanations. We do not have to explain anything because our action is self-explanatory. Israel has chosen its path and is willing to achieve full peace with Syria. We are willing to pay the price and we hinted what this price is; we are willing to hold daily negotiations in military and political forums, wherever they want. What else do we have to do?"

Referring to an arrangement in the territories Peres said: "It takes some time to bake a pie; you need some dough and some spices — it takes time."

Answering a question posed by MK Merom regarding the new settlements in the 'Etzyon Bloc area, Peres said: "We must evacuate the creeping settlements, and they will be evacuated. It will take some days, but they will not remain in place. The government will make sure that law and order are preserved everywhere, including there."

Justice Minister on Abu-Marzuq Extradition

TA2807083695 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0400 GMT 28 Jul 95

[Telephone interview with Justice Minister David Liba'i by No'omi Qeren and Ya'aqov Eylon; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Qeren] Justice Minister David Liba'i is now on the line. Good morning, sir.

[Liba'i] Good morning.

[Qeren] Has Israel decided whether to demand the extradition of Musa Abu—Marzuq?

[Liba'i] There has been no decision at this point. We have to hold our reaction and our decision until we know whether Abu-Marzuq is to stand trial in the United States, and if he is, on what charges and what he can expect there. We have to wait for the outcome of the investigation being conducted in the United States at the moment and for the decisions of the relevant legal authorities there.

[Eylon] Would it be correct to say that of all the options available to Israel if it wants to bring Abu-Marzuq to Israel, the easiest would be to have him extradited by the U.S. authorities?

[Liba'i] His extradition will not bring him necessarily to Israel, or into an investigation or to trial. If we want him, we have to ask him to be extradited to Israel. We have an extradition treaty with the United States, but to act on it, we have to prove that he has committed an extraditable offense. For that, we have to present prima facie evidence substantiating such an extraditable offense. What is difficult, what needs to be probed, is whether we have evidence linking him personally to acts of terror, to murder, to abetting or commanding a terrorist organization, or to other crimes.

[Eylon] Is this point still unclear? Is Israel uncertain it has evidence against him?

[Liba'i] I will stress the need for legally admissible evidence, as opposed to information and intelligence material.

[Eylon] Do you mean evidence admissible in Israel or the United States?

[Liba'i] In Israel, of course. By the way, the evidence has to be admissible in the United States as well.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The United States, too, will have to go through legal procedures before it can do the extradition. It is not merely a political decision, it is also a legal one. Therefore, I will not say whether we do or do not have evidence. All I can say is what we need to obtain and present before we can have him.

[Qeren] The question is whether this process will take too long, and whether the United States will decide to extradite him sooner than that.

[Liba'i] As you can imagine, Israel and the United States are in touch on the matter of his detention or arrest there and the date on which all of the material has to be submitted to the United States, if we are to act in time.

[Qeren] Minister Liba'i, would it be more convenient for Israel to have Abu-Marzuq tried in the United States?

[Liba'i] I will not comment on that at this stage, because as I told you earlier, we do not have a stand on the matter as yet. The person who has the legal authority to submit an extradition request is the attorney general, who will naturally consult the prime minister, government elements, and security elements on such a matter.

[Qeren] I meant convenient in the sense that if Israel requests Abu—Marzuq's extradition and puts him on trial, terrorist attacks may be carried out as a result.

[Liba'i] All the ramifications will be considered by the appropriate people, and I suggest we define no stand or send signals before we have considered everything, before we are ready to announce our stand in public. We are undoubtedly interested in him; there is no doubt about that.

[Qeren] Will a decision be made in the coming days?

[Liba'i] Definitely.

[Qeren] Thank you very much, Minister Liba'i.

U.S., Israel, Argentina To Examine Syrian Nuclear Plans

TA2807085395 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Jul 95 p 1

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States, Israel, and Argentina have secretly agreed to set up a committee of experts, which will convene in the coming days in Washington, to examine Syrian plans to obtain nuclear equipment and know-how.

The tripartite committee was set up following contacts between representatives of the three countries. In Israel, the contacts were conducted by U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk. Over the past few days, the United States has joined in Israel's concern over the Syrian intention to obtain nuclear know-how and equipment from Argentina and North Korea.

The tripartite meeting will convene despite recent attempts by Argentine administration officials to allay the concerns. During his recent visit to Israel, the Argentine foreign minister promised that his country would not sell a nuclear reactor to Syria before it signs a peace agreement with Israel.

A delegation of Syrian nuclear experts will go to Buenos Aires on 21 August to launch negotiations on a list of items Syria wants to buy in Argentina.

Trade Minister: Pact With Jordan Now Possible

TA2707164495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish has welcomed the Jordanian Parliament's cancellation of the trade ban against Israel. Harish says the move paves the way for signing a pact between the two countries.

Dr. Asher Sassa, an expert on Jordan at Tel Aviv University, says it marks the beginning of a new era. [passage omitted]

Jordanian Light Plane Lands by Mistake

JN2707160495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Jul 95

[From the "With the Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two Jordanian light planes took off from the airport of ('Atarot), Qalandiyah, north of Jerusalem, on their way back to Amman this afternoon.

One of the two planes landed in this airport after it entered Israeli airspace by mistake over the Dead Sea area. Two Israeli Air Force planes escorted it to the airport. Another Jordanian plane landed in the airport later with two pilots on board. One of the two pilots flew the first plane back to Jordan.

Coalition, Opposition Claim Victory in Golan Vote

TA2707113795 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Jul 95 p 3

[Report by Menahem Rahat, Arye Bender, Yehuda Golan, and Yehuda Goren]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the end of the nerve-wracking day, everyone seemed to sigh in relief. "We won," Shim'on Peres declared smilingly upon leaving the plenum hall. "We won," opposition leader Binyamin Netanyahu asserted scant seconds later. "Victory is

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

ours," declared Yehuda Har'el, a prominent Golan Heights settler and one of the leaders of the Third Way.

Everyone was smiling, except Knesset Member [MK] Alex Goldfarb, whose appearance and teary face indicated his state of inner turmoil. He was the man who decided the vote, at the very last moment, by opposing the bill; and the jeers from the opposition benches caused him great pain.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin sounded encouraged, but still furious: "This restricting proposal, the bill to rescue Syria, was rejected by the Knesset. To my regret, the vote ended in a tie, but the main thing is that the bill did not even pass its preliminary hearing, and this resolves the problem. These three MK's, despite the fact that their actions were formally approved by the faction, did an unacceptable thing. They jeopardized the government's international standing, and I assume that the party will know how to appreciate those who were loyal to the government's path and deal with those who were not. It is inconceivable that, with such an important vote at stake, someone should decide to be a bleeding heart [referring to Meretz MK Poraz's decision to pair off with the bedridden Likud MK Kaufman] and puts the country's international standing at risk by the possibility of its being perceived as an opponent of peace."

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said: "The three MK's who voted with the right wing acted wrongly. Nonetheless, even though they joined the right wing, the bill was rejected, and we will continue the negotiations, reach an agreement, and win the national referendum by a large majority." As for MK Qahalani, Peres said: "He is an outstanding soldier but a political ingenue. What did he gain from this? He voted against his faction, did not do the right thing in light of the circumstances, and lost out."

Binyamin Netanyahu: "The government won? The government was defeated! There is now proof that it does not enjoy a majority either in the Knesset or the street. Ninety-five MK's voted for Camp David, 105 supported the peace agreement with Jordan, and here Rabin barely scored a tie, with the help of vote-snatchers and PLO supporters. This is a disgrace. We said that a draw would constitute a great victory, which it indeed is. Is Rabin going to return the Golan Heights with such a majority against him? Even with all the votes it stole, the government cannot muster a majority of even one vote. This is a clear defeat for the government. Al-Asad must understand: This is a government that does not have a majority either in the Knesset or among the people, and it does not have a mandate to make any concessions."

MK Ester Salmovitz said: "I feel disappointed that I failed to convince Alex Goldfarb to support Qahalani's bill. This is neither a victory nor a defeat, but at least al-Asad was given a clear message: 'Rabin cannot continue the process without a majority'."

The Golan Heights Settlement Committee: "The Knesset vote hammered one of the last nails in the coffin of the prime minister's plan to withdraw from the Golan."

Vote Seen To Have Little Effect on Syria Track

TA2707152995 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Jul 95 p 2

[Analysis by Hemi Shalev: "Al-Asad Probably Will Not Be Impressed by the Draw"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The dramatic tie in yesterday's Knesset vote on the bill requiring a special majority for any territorial concessions on the Golan Heights could theoretically serve to promote the negotiations with Syria.

It allows the Americans to step up their pressure on Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to make some impressive public goodwill gestures in order to convince the skeptical Israeli public. It could also help prove to al-Asad that contrary to assertions made by him in the past, there is a difference between the Likud and the Labor Party. If al-Asad seeks an agreement, he had better hurry before the 59 Knesset members [MK's] who supported the Golan bill start handling the negotiations.

But knowing al-Asad, one cannot predict his conclusions from yesterday's Knesset vote. For example, he could reach the opposite conclusion from what everyone is trying to pitch to him. He can conclude that the Knesset vote only proves that the Israeli Government does not have the political might to return all of the Golan Heights to Syria and that by reaching an arrangement with Israel he is risking being viewed as a leader who gave up his principles and received nothing in exchange. Al-Asad, who is not particularly knowledgeable about democratic practices, could also feel that the show in the Knesset was only an act designed to bolster Israel's refusal to make the necessary concessions in order to achieve an agreement.

The fact is that the negotiations with Syria are stuck regardless of any connection to the Golan bill. The boost the government received following the failure of the agreement's opponents was immediately offset by the thin line that separated victory and defeat. Damascus and Washington already understood that the Golan issue was very problematic for the Israeli public, and the results of the vote in the Knesset only underscored this difficulty.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Question: What effect will the close fight in the Knesset yesterday have on the negotiations with Syria? Answer: probably none.

IDF, Treasury Agree on Redeployment Budget

TA2807100895 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Jul 95 pp A1, A2

[Report by Eytan Rabin and Judy Maltz]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The heads of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Treasury have reached an agreement in principle that the budget for Spectrum B, the IDF's redeployment in the West Bank, will be 850 million shekels. The sides still differ, however, on the sources for this budget: The IDF is demanding that the entire budget be handed over as an addition to the defense budget, while the Treasury claims that the IDF must absorb some of the expense from its own budget.

The initial demand of the IDF, the police, and the Shin Bet for the redeployment in the West Bank reached 2.5 billion shekels. In negotiations with these bodies, the Treasury managed to reduce the demand to 1.6 billion, out of which 950 million were earmarked for the IDF. The sides have now agreed to reduce the amount by an additional 100 million to the sum of 850 million shekels. Since the Treasury has already agreed to transfer 310 million shekels as an advance payment during the present fiscal year, the budgetary gap under controversy stands at 540 million shekels.

A senior Treasury source says the Treasury has agreed to allocate some 300-400 million shekels for financing Spectrum B under a clause bearing the name "budgetary constraints". This clause includes anticipated costs during the 1996 fiscal year regarding which no final decision has been made so far. The source says this sum is earmarked not only for the IDF, but also for the police and the Shin Bet. Assuming that some 200 million shekels out of this sum will be given to the IDF, the actual gap between the IDF and the Treasury will narrow down to 340 million shekels. [passage omitted]

Settlers Remain on Hadagan Hill Past Deadline

TA2707162795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Jewish settlers say they will not move from Hadagan Hill, where they hope to build a new neighborhood for the settlement of Efrata. Despite an evacuation order that expired last night, the army has so far taken no action towards removing the settlers.

At the foot of the hill, Palestinians from the village of al-Khadr have set up tents in protest. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 27 July adds that the Palestinians were joined by some 20 Peace Now activists.] No'omi Segal has more on the standoff:

[Segal] Once again, the hilltop surrounding the settlement of Efrata has become a flash point for a land dispute. Residents of Efrata and 'Etzyon Bloc settlements last night remained on Hadagan Hill, the rocky hilltop they hope will become Efrata's northernmost neighborhood. Ignoring an evacuation order that expired at midnight, the settlers instead added three wooden shacks to the 15 or so tents already at the site.

Today, soldiers posted nearby did not intervene as people milled about the site, studying in the main tents, preparing the ground for more permanent buildings, and getting ready for the Sabbath. [passage omitted]

The settlers said Hadagan Hill lies within the municipal borders of Efrata. A map taped to the side of one tent showed Hadagan Hill as one of several surrounding hilltops which are included in the settlement's master plan. [passage omitted] The settlers say they have no intention of leaving Hadagan Hill even if security forces come to evacuate them. Asked if their action is more a provocation than a real settlement effort, Yehudit of Efrata maintained that the settlers are only staking claim to what is rightfully theirs. [passage omitted]

Aguda Council: No Government May Cede Territory

TA2707144895 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Jul 95 p A3

[Report by Shahar Ilan]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In an emergency session last Sunday [23 July], Agudat Yisra'el's Council of Torah Sages passed a resolution determining that no government has the authority to cede parts of Eretz Yisra'el's territory. The council will issue a detailed letter on this by the weekend. The council further ruled that Agudat Yisra'el's Knesset members will vote for the amendment to the Golan Heights law. These decisions thus render all of last week's attempts to change Agudat Yisra'el's position futile. [passage omitted]

Nazareth Muslim Group Raided; Hamas Ties Alleged

TA2707164595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 27 Jul 95

[Report by Ilan Ro'e]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Unit of the Israel Police, assisted by the special auxiliary unit of the Northern District and the Valleys District, today raided

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the offices of the Islamic Aid Committee in Nazareth and found a lot of material allegedly linking the committee with families of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees. Initial details from this investigation were released a few minutes ago:

The Central Unit of the Valleys District and the special auxiliary unit of the Northern District today searched the offices of the Islamic Aid Committee in Nazareth. Among other things, the police seized thousands of documents, computers, and additional material attesting to transfers of large sums of U.S. dollars from fundamentalist Muslim organizations in the West to the committee, headed by senior Islamic Movement members in the north. The money received in the committee's offices were transferred to the territories to Hamas deportees, for the reconstruction of houses demolished by the Civil Administration and apparently to families connected with Hamas.

Some 20 police officers took part in the operation, and the people who were at the committee building did not resist the search. As far as it is known, this investigation has been conducted over the past several weeks, following mainly intelligence leads. At this stage, we were told, no one has been arrested, but the investigation is still under way.

The committee is headed, we were told, by Shaykh Nimr from Kafr Manda. The investigation was mainly conducted by the defense forces, most of its findings are still secret, and the release of the above facts today was approved by very senior echelons of the defense establishment. The aid committee is an absolutely legal organization operating out of Nazareth, but the suspected connection with Hamas is illegal because the latter is considered a terrorist organization. The Valleys District officers hold a very grave view of the affair and avoid commenting on it or on any other details of the investigation.

Committee Denies Financing Hamas Deportees

TA2807100095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 28 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Aid Committee of Nazareth denies the report that committee members transferred funds toward the renovation of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees' houses.

Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the committee says it is a legally registered society, and that it acts to help orphans from the territories, including children whose fathers were assassinated for collaboration with Israel. The Nazareth committee further states that international organizations based in Europe and the United States, as well as various prominent Israelis, have donated funds for these causes.

It was reported yesterday that the Valley District Police central unit raided the Islamic Aid Committee offices in Nazareth, where it found documents attesting to a link between the committee and the families of Hamas deportees.

Foreign Investment Increases 266% in 2d Quarter

TA2707105995 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Jul 95 p 8

[Report by Jose Rosenfeld]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Direct foreign investment jumped 266 percent in the second quarter to $489 million, most of it focused on a small number of local companies, the Bank of Israel reported yesterday.

During the first half of the year, foreign direct investment totaled $673m., 60% higher than investments for the whole of last year, which reached $412m.

Similarly, foreign investments in the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange rose 31% in the second quarter to $131m.

In the past six months, foreigners invested $231m. in the stock market, 26% more than they did all last year.

Despite the increase in the volume of foreign investment during the second quarter, the overall inflow of capital to the country dropped by over a third to $1.7 billion from $2.6b. in the first quarter.

According to the central bank, the decrease reflected lower non-linked shekel interest rates, combined with the widening of the "crawling peg's" diagonal band, which introduced greater uncertainty about exchange rate fluctuations.

In addition, foreign currency backed loans, which were the main source of incoming foreign capital, fell nearly 40% to $1.3b. from $2.1b. in the first quarter.

Most of the jump in foreign credit in the first quarter resulted from the public switching from non-linked shekel loans to cheaper foreign currency loans.

Short-term foreign currency loans dropped sharply last month, and the trend is continuing, the central bank reported.

About $430m. of the foreign credit derived from the use of U.S. loan guarantee funds.

The large import of foreign capital since the start of the year did not increase the money supply, as the central bank reduced the amount of credit available to commercial banks and sold fewer short-term bonds.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Central Bank Makes 'Moderate' Interest Rate Cut

TA2507103395 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Jul 95 p 8

[Report by Galit Lipkis Beck and Rachel Neiman]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Bank of Israel yesterday announced it will nudge down interest rates by 0.3 percentage points next month, following the Treasury's and business sector's unrelenting pressure to cut rates.

The cautious move, which will reduce the rate the central bank charges on unlinked shekel loans to commercial banks from 13.5% to 13.2%, is intended to signal that although inflation is moderating, several indicators are still showing that the economy is overheated, Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel said. The five largest commercial banks reacted to the cut by announcing they are reducing their prime lending rates on Thursday by 0.3 percentage points to 14.7% from 15%. [passage omitted]

Frenkel noted that moderate increases in the Consumer Price Index in the past few months, together with lower inflationary expectations as reflected in the capital market, enabled the central bank to reduce rates somewhat.

By contrast, the rapid expansion in the money supply and the rise in borrowing, including unlinked shekel credit, led the central bank to continue its restrictive monetary policy to keep a lid on inflation.

Frenkel justified the moderate rate cut by citing that demand is still growing, with retail sales and imports on the rise.

The Bank of Israel took credit for lower inflation, attributing its moderation to its monetary policy. As a result, the central bank has reduced interest rates by 3.8% since March.

Bank officials said the fight against inflation requires limiting demand and adjusting it so it does not rise faster than overall economic growth.

Referring to the Treasury's current budget deliberations, the officials noted the importance of cutting government spending to help moderate excess demand, and thereby help reduce the country's large balance of payments gap.

Asked whether the central bank would reciprocate a NIS [new Israeli shekels] 3 billion budget cut with a significant interest rate reduction, Bank of Israel spokesman Avigdor Levi said "it will certainly influence our decisions."

He added, however, "this doesn't mean that a specific budget cut will result in an immediate 1% decrease in interest rates." [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

House Amends Law on Economic Boycott of Israel

JN2707151995 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 27 Jul 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] The House of Representatives has endorsed the amendments that the Legal Committee introduced into Article VI of the draft Law on Economic Boycott and Banning Dealing With the Enemy of 1995. This article now reads as follows:

A. In addition to the provisions enshrined in the Law on the Sale and Lease of Real Estate to Foreigners No. 40 of 1953, and the Law on the Disposition of Immovable Property by Corporate Entities No. 61 of 1953, it is impermissible for foreign persons or corporate entities that do not hold an Arab nationality to purchase, lease, or own directly or indirectly any immovable property in the kingdom unless the following conditions are met:

1. The laws and practices of the state or states of which those requesting ownership or lease rights are nationals must not ban the ownership or lease of immovable property on their territory by Jordanians. Moreover, there should be no practical obstructions precluding Jordanians' enjoyment of such rights on these states' territories.

2. The real estate owned or leased must be practically used within five years of the date of ownership or lease.

3. This ownership or lease or any related activities should not undermine national security.

4. The foreign persons requesting such ownership or lease rights must obtain the endorsement of the Council of Ministers upon the recommendation of the minister of finance and the Land Registration Department.

B. Foreign corporate entities are banned from owning immovable property for the sake of agricultural investment, whether or not they are registered in the kingdom, and regardless of the purposes of the corporate entities.

C. If the persons mentioned in Paragraph A no longer meet any of the conditions listed in this paragraph, their lease will be canceled and their real estate sold in accordance with instructions to be issued by the Council of Ministers.

D. The instructions and decisions to be issued in accordance with this article by the Council of Ministers shall be published in the official gazette.

Al-Kabariti Hails Write-Off of Debts to U.S.

JN2707191195 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton signed legislation reducing federal spending by $16 billion. This law will provide a sum of $275 million to exempt Jordan from repayment of its remaining debts to the United States. President Clinton said the draft law is evidence that we can put our party's policies aside and do what is good for our country.

The original legislation, which was vetoed by President Clinton, included larger cuts in environment, education, and jobs programs that were not acceptable to Clinton.

Answering a question by journalists on President Clinton's initiative, Foreign Minister al-Kabariti said this step deserves appreciation and President Clinton deserves thanks for it because it represents partial fulfillment of the U.S. President's pledges to Jordan. He said Jordan will benefit from writing off the U.S. debt both in the development process in the kingdom and in raising living standards for citizens.

Al-Kabariti said writing off Jordanian debts to the United States is an expression of the U.S. support for the peace process. He also expressed hope that Clinton's step will be a good start for writing off other debts by the European Union states who are eager to establish peace in the region.

Minister Confers With Head Palestinian Negotiator

JN2707183695 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti received Ahmad Quray', minister of economy in the Palestinian National Authority and head of the Palestinian team that negotiates with Israel, at the Foreign Ministry this evening.

Discussions dealt with current developments in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations that are aimed at making progress in implementing the second stage of Oslo agreement, as well as Jordan's role within the framework of efforts aimed at realizing positive progress in the peace process.

Strong bilateral relations and continuous coordination in order to realize the joint interests of the two fraternal peoples were also discussed.

Columnist Hails 'Heroic' Ramat Gan Bombing

JN2807092495 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 29 Jul 95 pp 6,35

["The Truth Is Told" column by Ziyad Abu-Ghanimah, former spokesman of the Muslim Brotherhoo in Jordan: "Good Work, O Hamas Heroes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beloved readers of SHIHAN: You and I often feel depressed, oppressed, and pained to such an extent that our hearts are about to break.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Suddenly, when we are in such a terrible state of mind, a comet carrying good news appears and our anger and depression disappear and a dose of happiness penetrates our hearts. That is how we felt when news of the heroic Tel Aviv operation that shook the foundations of the usurper Zionist entity reached us. The enemy thought Tel Aviv was a castle that the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] heroes could not reach. The operation brought great relief to our hearts.

Can you imagine the extent of the depression and pain caused by the rabbis of the most extremist Jewish parties, the SHAS [Torah-observing Sephardim] party, desecrating the chastity of Amman, the land of steadfastness, and wearing their filthy yarmulkes to humiliate us further?

What pain and depression exceeds that caused by our government, which is trampling on our dignity, honor, Arabism, and Islam, as well as our Jordanian and Palestinian character, as it dotes on the Jews? Our government has gone so far as to impose on us—the people who prepare their budgets by the sweat of our brows—and on all the Arabs and Muslims, the butcher Rabin whose hands are still stained with our blood in Palestine, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and elsewhere. Our government has imposed this beast on us as a champion of human rights and allowed him to participate in the most virtuous campaign by our good people to help our Muslim brothers in Bosnia.

What pain and depression exceeds that which is caused by the snatching of our Muslim youths from their homes and mosques to put them in jail at a time when the Jews, curse them, are practicing abominations in front of al-Husayni Mosque [Amman center] under the gaze of our guards?

What pain and depression exceeds that which is caused by the Arab rulers—or to put it better, those leaders and officials which God Almighty has afflicted us with—shedding tears over the shedding of the filthy blood of a Jew while having no tears to shed when the Palestinian or Lebanese blood is shed at the hands of the Jews, God curse them?

I loudly and clearly tell those who have been troubled by the heroic Hamas operation and those who denounced and shed tears for the dead Jews who will burn in hell, that I do not denounce the Hamas heroes' operation, but rather I hail it and wish that it is repeated every day, every hour and wherever a Jewish intruder gains a foothold on Palestinian soil, and I call on God and his angels, and all the honorable people in Jordan, the land of confrontation and steadfastness; in Palestine, the land of jihad and martyrdom; and in all Arab and Islamic land to be my witness.

Some may say: It is barbaric to express happiness over the shedding of blood. So be it. I do not not feel barbaric when I rejoice for the shedding of the blood of the Jews who shed the blood of my family and who are continuing to do this whenever they can. Some may say: This will enrage the world public opinion. To hell with world public opinion, which witnesses floods of Muslim blood in Bosnia, Kashmir, the Philippines, Palestine, Lebanon, and elsewhere and does not bat an eye, but turns the world upside down when a drop of Jewish blood is spilled.

God save your hands, O Hamas heroes. You are the good fruit of the original Muslim Brotherhood tree. Blessed are the souls of your martyrs as they proceed to paradise, carrying with them after each operation, fuel for the fire of hell from among the enemy men and women soldiers.

Ukrainian Minister Signs Trade Protocol

JN2707145595 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A trade cooperation protocol was signed today between the Amman Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Ukraine. It was signed for the Ukrainian side by Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Constantine Grishenko, who is leading his country's delegation, and for the Jordanian side by Haydar Murad, head of the Amman Chamber of Commerce, who spoke to our correspondent Majid al-Khurayshah about this protocol:

[Begin Murad recording] We focused with our Ukrainian friends on ways to increase the volume of trade between us and Ukraine, especially since the balance of trade is clearly tilting in favor of Ukraine. In fact, the private sector has a very important role to play in this field. Therefore, we signed a protocol today, that is, a cooperation agreement between us and the Ukrainian private sector, represented by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in order to work out a firm basis for increasing cooperation between us and Ukraine.

For example, if there is no cooperation in the private sector, the exchange will remain limited. Therefore, we took the first step in today's agreement, which will facilitate the exchange of delegations and information and the creation of markets between the two countries. At the same time, many points in our and their laws were raised today, and we agreed to study them. Ukraine has a great capability of importing. The Ukrainians also promised to study ways to increase their imports from Jordan. In fact, we focused on these matters in the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

protocol. The private sector will play a role in this field. The Ukrainians encourage all these matters.

At the same time, we discussed the upcoming Amman economic summit and the extent of their participation. In fact, the Ukrainians want to increase cooperation with Jordan. We, as the private sector, should play a role. We took the first step today by signing the cooperation agreement, which I believe is a good step to increase cooperation between us and them, God willing. I also believe that various contacts with them will be held on this topic in the near future. [end recording]

More Details on Trade Talks

JN2707121095 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27-28 Jul 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] (PETRA)—The Jordanian-Ukrainian committee has agreed to initiate three accords aimed at promoting economic investment and trade relations between the two countries. The committee reviewed the main topics to be taken up by the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference due in Amman in October. According to a statement following the committee meeting at the Ministry of Industry and Trade Wednesday, the two sides consented to the signing of an agreement on economic cooperation, another on preventing dual taxation and a third on encouraging and protecting investments in the two countries.

The two sides exchanged drafts of the three accords and agreed on the exchange of formal documents within a month in order for procedures to commence on placing the accords within their respective legal frameworks, said the statement. The statement also said that the committee reviewed topics on the agenda of the MENA conference and on Jordanian-Ukrainian cooperation in launching joint projects to be put forth to the participating countries.

Before the committee's meeting, the Ukranian delegation, led by Ukraine Deputy Foreign Minister Constantine Grishenko, met Minister of Industry and Trade 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib to review areas for mutual economic and trade cooperation and to discuss the role of private sectors in the two countries to help increase the volume of trade and investment schemes between them. The Ukrainian official said his country was willing to participate in the October conference and that the meeting will have special significance in the peace era. Following the meetings, the Ukrainian delegation held talks with Jordanian businessmen and representatives of the private sector in Jordan.

Mr. Grishenko met later with Ministry of Supply Secretary General Mustafa Khulayfat with whom he discussed the prospect of selling Ukrainian fresh refrigerated meat to Jordan and the necessary procedures connected with transporting the meat and the setting of prices. According to a statement following the meeting, the two sides also discussed possible exports of Ukrainian sugar, wheat, barley, dried milk, and rice at reasonable prices and other requirements for the Civil Consumer Corporation.

Mr. Grishenko and Mr. Khulayfat discussed economic cooperation and agreed that they should follow up on their discussions at a later date once Ukraine has supplied Jordan with a list of commodities and goods that could be sold to Jordan at reasonable prices and in accordance with agreed upon specifications.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Prime Minister Leaves on Official Visit to France

NC2607173195 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left Beirut Airport for Paris this afternoon on an official three-day visit.

He is accompanied by a delegation that includes Ministers Farid Makari, [Minister of Information]; Fu'ad al-Sinyurah, [Minister of State for State for Financial Affairs]; Michel Iddih, [Minister of Culture]; Walid Junblatt, [Minister of Refugee Affairs]; Mahmud Abu-Hamdan, [Minister of Housing and Cooperatives]; Robert Ghanim, [Minister of National Education, Youth, and Sports]; and Marwan Hamadah, [Minister of Health]. Nabil al-Jisr, chairman of the reconstruction and development council, is also a member of the delegation. [passage omitted]

Army Receives 16 U.S.-Made Helicopters

NC2607121695 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Lebanese Army today received 16 U.S.-made Bell 205 helicopters. The delivery was made at a landing strip near the Defense Ministry.

Air Force Commander Brigadier General Mahmud Matar pointed out that the U.S.-made helicopters represent the first batch in the rebuilding of the Lebanese Air Force since the events in Lebanon destroyed all the installations and equipment, including aircraft, rendering the Air Force inoperative. He added that further deliveries will follow and that helicopters will represent the primary element in the coming stage. They will be followed by fixed-wing medium-range warplanes. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Denies Links With Suspects in Argentina

NC2807075595 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] More than a year after the bombing of a Jewish center in Buenos Aires, it appears that U.S. and Zionist intelligence services are doing their utmost to blame Hizballah and Islamic Iran for the blast. This campaign is echoed by similar allegations by the Argentine Government which is apparently unable to solve the mystery. It has attempted to use bribery to lay the blame at the door of a Lebanese citizen whom it claims is a Hizballah member.

The details are as follows:

Buenos Aires court sources report that a federal judge has started an investigation into the attempted bribing of the sole witness to the bombing of the Jewish center to persuade him to implicate one of the Lebanese citizens who are under interrogation for suspected involvement in the assault. The sources say that the interrogators have not made any formal charges against these Lebanese citizens.

(Carlos Bilbin), the only person whom formal charges have been lodged against in the case, has reported that (Pedro Vargas), a former Argentine Army officer, visited him in his cell and offered him $1 million on behalf of the government and a promise of release in return for a testimony accusing one of the six persons who have been described as Lebanese citizens. Argentina recently secured extradition of these six people plus a Brazilian woman from Paraguay.

The six Lebanese citizens and the Brazilian woman are being interrogated by a Buenos Aires judge. According to reliable sources, it will be demonstrated that no formal charges can be brought against them.

(Bilbin) said that he turned down Captain (Vargas') offer because he is sure of his own innocence and that he will soon be released.

On the same subject, an official Hizballah source has denied knowledge of the five Lebanese citizens suspected of having links to bombings and arms smuggling who were recently handed over to Argentina.

The Hizballah source added that the five Lebanese citizens whose names were mentioned in the above interrogation are not connected with Hizballah in any way.

Fadlallah Condemns Paris Bomb, Views 'Seven-Day War'

MM2807095495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Jul 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Paris Explosion Was a Barbaric, Unjustified Act"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH — Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah believes that the seven-day war of July 1993 "was a military, political, and psychological defeat for the Zionist enemy." He condemned the explosion which occurred in France, saying that "violence is unjustifiable except in cases when people act to protect their freedom from those who occupy their territory."

He saw the explosion which occurred in Paris the day before yesterday as "an unjustified barbaric act regardless of the identity and affiliation of whoever carried it out. We feel that civilians are God's trust to us all and we should safeguard that trust. Violence is

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

unjustifiable except in cases when people act to protect their freedom from those occupying their territory and imposing violence on them. We are against violence anywhere in the world. We understand violence to mean aggression against civilians and people living in peace and attempt to achieve social and political results by force. That is why we tell the world that we wish to coexist with all peoples of the world on the basis of mutual respect, and we reject harm to any people. From my religious position I have issued fatwas [edicts] and I repeat to all Muslims living in the United States, Europe, and everywhere else that they are not allowed to harm the security of the country they live in nor the general order of that country. We want to live with the peoples of the world on a basis of respect and we ask nationals of other nations who live with us to respect us as we respect them. We repeat our condemnation of the Paris explosion."

On the Israeli aerial offensive two years ago, he said: "With that aerial offensive in the 1993 seven-day war against the south and western al-Biqa', the Zionists wanted to finish off the resistance and expel it from the touchlines in the occupied territories, and to undermine relations between the resistance and the public and force out the largest possible number of Lebanese to create a tragedy that would destabilize the country again. They wanted to portray the resistance as a group of terrorists. U.S. officials contacted Syrian officials in order to promote a solution that would save Israel's face, soften the world's anger at it, and give the resistance an international standing. The understanding reached in July 1993 confirmed this, in the form of Israel's undertaking not to shell civilians in return for the mujahidin's undertaking not to shell the settlements." He added: "The mujahidin did not sign anything but they entered into an agreement with Israel without any direct negotiations. Israel failed politically, lost the world's support and sympathy, and emerged as an aggressive state through its shelling of civilians. Despite all that, the bond between the resistance and the public has confirmed that there is no distinction between Muslim and Muslim, Christian and Christian, or Lebanese and Lebanese because the mujahidin are sons and relatives. The seven-day war failed to drive a wedge between the resistance and the public and it was a political, military, and psychological defeat for the Zionist enemy."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

UK Delegation Holds News Conference, Departs

JN2707184495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received a British parliamentary delegation at 1030 today. The delegation comprises representatives of all British parties. The meeting was attended by Shakir Is'ayyid, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee of the People's Assembly, and British Ambassador in Damascus Adrian John Sindall. The talks addressed the regional state of affairs, peace process developments, and Syrian-UK ties. [passage omitted]

The delegation of the British House of Commons left Damascus this afternoon. The delegation comprises Cyril Townsend, chairman of the Middle East Council for the Conservative Party; Irene Ross, chairperson of the Middle East Council for the Labor Party; (Venrice Kambrell), chairperson of the Middle East Council for the Liberal Democratic Party; Labor Party deputies (Michael Hidley) and (Clive Beats); Conservative Party deputy Richard Alexander; (Bill Jelly), member of the Executive Committee of the Middle East Council for the Labor Party; (Bridgette Gilkrist), coordinator of the Middle East Council for the Labor Party; and (Robert Hicks), chairman of the British-Syrian Friendship Association.

The delegation, which has concluded a three-day visit to Syria, was seen off at the Syrian-Lebanese border post by Shakir Is'ayyid, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee.

Prior to the delegation's departure, Townsend, Ross, and (Kambrell) held a news conference at the Carlton Hotel, in which they commended the good results of this visit. During the visit, they said they had firsthand knowledge about Syria's principled and firm stands, which aim to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region on the basis of the relevant UN resolutions and international legitimacy. They asserted that Syria has a key role to play at this point in the peace process. They maintained that the return of the whole of the Golan to Syria in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 242 is a basic prerequisite of peace, particularly since this resolution provides for the exchange of territory for peace.

The UK parliamentarians added that the positions of Syria under His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad have won the respect of everybody in the Arab homeland and Britain. We are interested in the achievement of peace in the Middle East on the basis of the relevant international resolutions, they added.

They asserted that Syria's principled position has become clear. Syria's efforts are seeking a comprehensive peace. Moreover, Syria wants to see the peace talks conducted in the context of international law and the relevant UN resolutions so that the best chances of achieving a firm and lasting peace may be created.

The UK parliamentarians indicated that Israel thinks that it can force its own version of peace. That is why it is attempting to obtain concessions during the talks, they maintained. They noted that their talks with senior Syrian officials centered on the moves they can undertake as parliamentarians representing various parties to explain the Syrian position, given the acceptability and comprehensibility of this position. This position does not reflect a negotiating tactic. It is a genuine and principled position aimed at achieving and promoting peace.

The UK parliamentarians underlined the importance of seizing the current opportunity to promote and to enhance Syrian-UK ties through the entrenchment of bilateral political, economic, and cultural ties. They added that their talks also addressed the means to promote ties between Syria and the EU. We have been heartened in this regard by the Syrian decision to take part in the Barcelona conference, they noted.

The UK parliamentarians expressed their thanks and appreciation for the hospitality and warm reception accorded them during this visit. They underscored the importance of communication and the exchange of visits by delegations from the parliaments of the two countries.

The delegation of the British House of Commons had earlier in the day visited the liberated city of al-Qunaytirah. [passage omitted]

Paper Says Partial Accords Lead to 'Anarchy'

JN2707195895 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 25 Jul 95 p 9

["AL-THAWRAH Issues" column by Sayyah al-Sukhni: "The Clear Principle"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There is no doubt that Syria is eager to achieve a just and comprehensive peace without giving up any of its rights or any inch of its land. This can be attained by creating objective factors and ending tension and the explosive situation of this sensitive part of the world in order to allow the region's peoples to build their future and that of their generations in an atmosphere of true security and stability apart from the specter of war and its tragedies.

Syria has effectively contributed to and advanced the peace process and offered every effort to maintain its

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

momentum and credibility. Moreover, Syria's patience in the face of Israel's procrastination has prevented the collapse of the negotiations.

Syria, through its positive and constructive positions, has also proved that it is making honest political proposals and doing its utmost to bring about a firm peace based on the principles of right and justice and to provide balanced and equitable [mutakafi'] security for all parties. Meanwhile, Israel was exposed before the whole world as a tyrant force of occupation, which wants to impose its negotiating conditions and peddle weak and partial settlements rather than seek full and true peace in order to make security and geographical gains and harm Syria's dignity and its recognized legitimate right to regain the entire Golan and spread its absolute sovereignty over it.

Syria rejects any compromise regarding the land issue, and views Israel's total withdrawal as the only way to attain just and firm peace. Syria, as well as the whole world, realizes that any accord that fails to regain the whole land will be so weak and superficial that it will result in violence and anarchy rather than peace and stability. This reality does not need ample evidence to be proved. It is enough to recall what occurred in Ramat Gan yesterday, as well as in Bet Lid and al-'Affulah, to prove that partial and incomplete accords will certainly fail to uproot injustice, oppression, and occupation; will generate anger and frustration; and will further aggravate the situation rather than bring about security and stability.

Israel is exploiting the security issue to maintain its policy of hegemony and occupation and to justify its rejection of the principle of total withdrawal from the Golan and the rest of the occupied Arab territories. The security pretext, which is not established on a sound and realistic basis, cannot be taken seriously or accepted by Syria. Even the simplest rules of logic say that peace based on justice and comprehensiveness is the only one, which can bring about security and peace of mind for all parties, as well as stability and prosperity for all peoples of the region. In return, the absence of peace will further aggravate the situation and will keep the door open to violence and anarchy.

Anyhow, Israel's attempts to maintain its current position, avoid peace requirements, and offer just a vague withdrawal from part of the Golan will not serve peace and will not advance negotiations any step forward. Rabin's government should know that Syria's positions are clear and that it will not relinquish any of its rights or its land under any circumstances. In Syria's view, the idea of regaining the Golan is out of question and will never be a subject of bargaining.

Radio Commentary Reiterates Peace Position

JN2707172595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1136 GMT 27 Jul 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear Listeners: Political observers and those who are following the Middle East peace process stress that progress on the Syrian-Israeli track can be realized if the Rabin government decides to achieve peace and if it begins serious efforts toward a just peace that ensures the interests and rights of all parties and that returns the occupied territories to their owners.

Peace can be realized only with full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian and Lebanese territories, without attempts to bypass international resolutions which call for the Israeli withdrawal. Hence, it should be very clear that any media campaign regardless of how intensive it is, how far it can reach, and how skillful it is will not absolve Israel for obstructing the peace process. Naturally, this campaign will not be able to blame Syria because the difference between Syria and Israel is that Syria has adopted the peace decision in a decisive manner and has made just peace its strategic option. The only condition for peace that Syria sets is implementation of Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace principle.

On the other hand, Israel did not adopt the peace decision because it has not yet accepted the land-for-peace principle or the principle of full withdrawal in return for full peace. The whole world realized that Syria rejects any secret negotiations. It is clear that the party that does not fear lights is the party whose position is sound. This is not the case with Israel which used to call for secret negotiations that were usually met with Syrian rejection. The world countries, governments, press, and political circles have appreciated Syria's efforts to facilitate the peace process since the Madrid conference, and appreciated Syrian efforts to rid the peace process of the Israeli problems, and admitted that Syria's concept of peace, based on its adherence to its pan-Arab and national constants, is in line with the spirit of Security Council resolutions which call for the Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories. The world countries and their decisionmaking circles agreed that there will be no peace in the Middle East without Syria because Syria is key to peace and its concept of the peace process is the same as that of the international community. Syria's demand of equitable [mutakafi'ah], parallel [mutawaziyah], and equal [mutasawiyah] security arrangements on both lines of 4 June 1967 is based on an eagerness for a peace that is satisfactory and acceptable by all and is

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

in line with peace conditions and its just requirements. Syria's rejection of ground early-warning stations on its lands stems from the fact that these stations are a form of occupation and a violation of national sovereignty. This rejection is understood by world countries and is appreciated and respected by them too. Syria cannot be taken by temptation and intimidation, and it is clear in its serious and responsible position on just peace that preserves the right, dignity, and security of all parties, and contributes to world security and peace.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Bangladesh

Foreign Secretary Briefs OIC Envoys on Bosnia

BK2807035595 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0200 GMT 28 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan has said situation in Bosnia continues to deteriorate at an alarming pace and Bosnian Serb forces are now poised to take the safe areas of Bihac and Gorazde after having invaded the UN-designated safe areas of Srebrenica and Zepa. He said this while briefing the envoys of the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] member countries in Dhaka yesterday on the proceedings and actions of the meetings on Bosnia held in London and Geneva recently.

The foreign secretary said Bangladesh Government maintains that the situation is largely the result of inaction by the United Nations. Bangladesh continues to strongly urge that the UN forces must effectively protect the UN-designated safe areas in Bosnia that have been placed under the UN protection. Mr. Farooq Sobhan said massive air strikes against Bosnian Serb positions throughout Bosnia must take place immediately with preemptive air strikes on massive scale on Serb positions in Pale and in the pockets of Bihac, Sarajevo, and Gorazde. This (?stand) has already been communicated to Washington, London, and Paris for urgent action.

Daily Expects Economic Ties With Iran To Develop

BK2807011395 Dhaka THE MORNING SUN in English 23 Jul 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Dhaka-Tehran ties"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bilateral relations in the fields of trade, investment, culture and other cooperative endeavours will only be successful when agreements are properly implemented. Bangladesh is having trade imbalance with many countries including India. These imbalances are not in favour of Bangladesh. And the best way to overcome this is to boost export and create more avenues of diversifying the export trade. Perhaps this also prompted the government to send a high level trade delegation to fraternal Iran headed by Special Envoy of Prime Minister M. Morshed Khan. Media reports indicate that the current tour of the delegation to Iran has been widely welcomed there. Our trade delegation held elaborate discussions with ministers and other functionaries on ways and means for further promotion of cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

The president of Iran 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani also granted an audience to the Special Envoy who handed over a message to the President from Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. Morshed Khan also met Iran's Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati and minister for commerce. He also held talks with president of Iran Broadcasting Dr 'Ali Larijani who recently paid an official visit to Dhaka, Secretary General of Industrial Commercial Free Zones Council and other top office bearers of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines. Prime Minister's Special Envoy signed a joint statement with his host M. Rafiqdust, president of Mostaz'afan and Janbazan Foundations. Following the discussions with the two sides, the representatives of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines and Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry signed a memorandum of understanding to promote institutional cooperation between Bangladesh and Iran. It is expected that this memorandum of understanding would facilitate greater trade and economic exchanges between the two countries.

We note with satisfaction that both Bangladesh and Iran agree to further develop commercial relations through establishing joint technical and commercial companies. These companies would open a new vista in the field of economic ties and consolidate the bilateral relations. From the trend of talks and the visit of the Bangladesh trade delegation to some industrial establishments of Bonyad Foundation, it is crystal clear that the outcome of the visit would be really fruitful and meaningful.

Bangladesh has launched economic diplomacy and if such visits are conducted at the official level, with the inclusion of private businessmen and entrepreneurs there is no iota of doubt that Bangladesh shall win the race. It is encouraging that Bangladeshi private traders also concluded some commercial deals for exchange of goods between the two countries. More avenues should be created for the private sector to forge trade links. In order to give a new sense of direction visa and other facilities should be extended without any impediment to facilitate increase in volume of trade. With Iran a new beginning has been made.

We believe the ongoing visit of Prime minister's Special Envoy to Iran will be crowned with spectacular success and usher in a new era of friendship and tangible cooperation between the two countries.

Officials View Court Ruling on Opposition MP's

BK2707132995 Hong Kong AFP in English 1204 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, July 27 (AFP) — Bangladesh's Supreme Court ruled Thursday [27 July] that opposition MPs were absent from parliament and the speaker should decide when their seats would be deemed to have fallen vacant.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Analysts said the move could lead to by-elections or fresh polls. It was for the government of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to decide when to announce the status of 147 opposition members of parliament and whether to call by-elections or dissolve the parliament for fresh elections, they said.

"It is the Speaker who will compute and determine the period of absence," Chief Justice A.T.M. Afzal said summing up the court's unanimous "advisory opinion" to President Abdur Rahman Biswas.

Reacting to the decision, Zillur Rahman, secretary general of the main opposition Awami League told AFP, "the government now has to call fresh elections, which is long overdue."

Observers said Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali would most likely have to declare opposition seats vacant from June 19, when the opposition completed 90 days absence without break, in line with the constitution.

The 147 opposition MPs have been boycotting the assembly since March 1994 and resigned en masse from the 330-member house in December last year as part of a campaign to force Zia to stand down and call fresh polls.

Biswas earlier this month sought a ruling on whether the parliamentary boycott could be termed absence and whether the speaker was the authority to determine it.

Under the constitution, the government has to call for by-elections or fresh national polls within 90 days from the time the seats fall vacant.

The opposition has been demanding polls under a neutral caretaker government. It alleges fresh polls were impossible under Zia, a charge the premier has rejected.

The opposition, including Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League, the Jatiya Party of deposed president Hussain Muhammad Ershad and the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami party, wants Zia to resign.

Polls are scheduled for ealy 1996, when Zia completes her five- year term.

Opposition Calls For Dissolution

BK2807082995 Hong Kong AFP in English 0820 GMT 28 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dhaka, July 28 (AFP) — Bangladesh's opposition groups Friday [28 July] called for the dissolution of parliament, a day after a landmark ruling by the Supreme Court on the status of opposition lawmakers who have been boycotting the house.

The ruling has also prompted political commentators to speculate that fresh polls would be held by December.

Sheikh Hasina Wajed, chief of the main opposition Awami League, in a statement on Friday demanded that "the parliament should be dissolved immediately and elections should be held under a neutral caretaker government."

Other opposition groups, including the Jatiya Party of deposed president Hussain Muhammad Ershad and the fundamentalist Jamaat-e- Islami party, made similar calls.

Bangladesh's Supreme Court on Thursday in a landmark ruling declared the 147 opposition lawmakers absent from parliament, but left it up to the house speaker to decide when their seats would be deemed to have fallen vacant.

On Friday, the government remained silent on the opposition calls and House Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali refused comment.

Observers said the speaker would likely declare that the opposition seats had been vacant since June 19, when the opposition members marked the 90-day constitutional limit of being away from the house.

By-elections or new polls are to be held within 90 days from the time the seats are declared vacant, or the day parliament is dissolved, under Bangladesh's law.

The opposition began its boycott of the assembly in March 1994 and the lawmakers resigned en masse from the house in December, but their action was rejected by Ali on technical grounds.

The opposition has been demanding fresh polls under a neutral caretaker government and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's resignation, alleging free polls were impossible under her government. Zia has rejected their allegations and said she would strictly follow the constitution in dealing with unprecedented political crisis.

The current parliament was elected in 1991 to a five-year term in polls considered to be the most free since the birth of Bangladesh in 1971.

India

West Said Trying To Dominate UN Security Council

BK2607021995 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 25 Jul 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Security Council Ltd"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India is right to be concerned about the recent clandestine moves by the Western powers towards vesting the Security Council with responsibility for enforcing non-proliferation treaties. Quite

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

apart from the goals themselves, the very manner in which these steps are being taken is objectionable. The immediate issue is a draft resolution tabled by Argentina in the Security Council on July 11 affirming that the Council will take appropriate measures in the event of violations of the Nuclear Non- Proliferation Treaty [NPT], the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention. India and many other countries were caught unawares by this development although they would not have been surprised by the motives behind it. A matter of such vital importance to the entire membership of the UN should be placed before the General Assembly for "open, transparent and inclusive discussion", as India's Permanent Representative to the UN has said. It should not be left to be decided by a handful of weapons powers who, as the Council's permanent members, dominate its affairs.

The implication is clear. One of the principal organs of the UN is being subordinated to the interests of the US, China, Russia, France and Britain. The whole process smacks of the same bias that underlies the NPT. In practice, the non-proliferation agenda has come to mean the legitimisation of nuclear weapons in the hands of the Five. In strengthening the Security Council's enforcement role in this arena, these countries will empower themselves to police the world by taking "appropriate measures" on behalf of the Council. They thereby further legitimise their possession of weapons. It is also a breach of the hard-won conventions on chemical and biological weapons to transfer overall responsibility for enforcement to the Security Council, as proposed under the Argentinian resolution, when those functions belong to bodies set up under the convention's. Again the intention is to vest overriding control and authority in the five weapons powers. These developments should strengthen the resolve of the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] countries which have not been notably successful at the UN so far. But it is evidently in their interest to prevent the Security Council from functioning as a closely held corporation and to seek to enlarge its permanent membership and improve its decision-making process.

'Diluted' Stand on U.S. Arms to Pakistan Denied

BK2707125895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi has denied media reports that it has diluted its stand on the U.S. arms supplies to Pakistan. Responding to queries, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry termed such reports as irresponsible and untrue. He said India has strongly opposed to the proposal of transfer of certain weapons to Pakistan by the U.S. Administration. He said this has been made clear at various levels both in India and the United States. The position has also been made clear at the recent meeting of the consultative committee of members of parliament attached to the External Affairs Ministry.

Article Warns of Pakistan Aircraft Acquisition

BK2707045395 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 25 Jul 95 p 13

[Article by C. Uday Bhaskar: "P-3C will give Pakistan new clout at sea"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Media reports indicate that the Clinton administration is about to submit "suggested legislation" to the U.S. Senate that will allow for a U.S. $368 million worth of military equipment to be supplied to Pakistan. This will circumvent the Pressler law that forbids the U.S. to supply any military equipment to Pakistan since it acquired a clandestine nuclear capability.

The coming weeks will reveal the U.S. Legislative response to the changes being sought in the Pressler law. In the interim it is worth looking at the implications of Pakistan acquiring the P-3C maritime reconnaissance aircraft as a part of the $ 368 million package.

The P-3C is an exceedingly versatile maritime reconnaissance aircraft and can also be fitted with the lethal Harpoon anti-ship missile. The P-3C has a range of 7410 km and a speed of 761 kmph [kilometers per hour] and can operate at a service ceiling of 8625 metres or 28,300 feet above the sea.

This aircraft ranks among the most reliable maritime reconnaissance platforms in the world and with the Harpoon fitted, the P-3C becomes a strike aircraft of considerable lethality and range. The Harpoon is a proven missile and has a range of 130 km with a 0.9 mach speed. The 227 kg warhead is of the active radar homing type and is a potent threat to surface platforms.

With this induction, Pakistan moves up the ladder of Indian Ocean littoral navies as far as maritime reconnaissance strike capability is concerned and only Australia ranks ahead. Experience has shown that all Pakistani offensive military capability is India-specific and when inducted, this aircraft can fly upto 3500 km into the Indian Ocean — that is well towards the tip of the peninsula.

This ability to carry out surveillance at the altitudes indicated and to be able to launch the Harpoon missile from afar will adversely affect the tactical balance at sea and India's seeming numerical superiority will be blunted.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

In comparison, India has no maritime reconnaissance aircraft that are missile capable and this missile deficiency is carried into the underwater domain as well. The Pakistan Navy has Agosta and Daphnia class submarines of French origin that are sub-Harpoon capable and here again India has no comparable capability. Indian submarines are fitted with torpedoes as their main armament.

This induction of the P-3Cs follows a pattern wherein the regional tactical/technological balance at sea has been disturbed by Pakistan leading to a mandatory response from India. Pakistan acquired the first submarine from the US in 1965 and India which had abjured such capability (Pandit Nehru was opposed to the introduction of such platforms) was forced to respond in kind in 1967 when the first Indian submarine was commissioned. Subsequently, Pakistan introduced yet another de-stabilising dimension when its submarines became Harpoon capable in the late '80s. India is yet to acquire a matching capability and the threat that submarine launched Harpoons represent to India's maritime assets needs little reiteration.

The only viable response to missile threats at sea is the ability to detect and neutralise such platforms well before they can launch their lethal armament. The fighter-reconnaissance-strike Sea Harrier aircraft on the aging Indian aircraft carriers provide a modest response to such threats but this is inadequate to deal effectively with the kind of threat potential that the P-3 with a Harpoon represents. In the ultimate analysis, the Indian Navy may have to acquire suitable air-borne early warning surveillance systems — the AEW [airborne early warning]/AWACS [airborne warning and control system] — to augment the CAP (combat air patrol) at sea.

The acquisition of any offensive military capability by Pakistan cannot but cause concern to the Indian security planner given Islamabad's penchant for military adventurism. It should be countered not with shrill anti-Pakistan sentiment, but long-term security strategy.

Afghan Group Claims Responsibility for Bomb Blast

BK2707130495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, village defense committees will be formed throughout the state to keep vigil over suspected persons. The state governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, has said that in border areas where such committees have already been formed, government will provide them more arms if necessary. He was addressing a public meeting at Samba near Jammu. He called for active involvement of ex-servicemen in these committees. Referring to the ongoing Amarnath [Hindu shrine] pilgrimage, the governor said all necessary arrangements are being made to make the yatra [pilgrimage] safe and smooth. Gen. Krishna Rao visited the victims of yesterday's blast on Shalimar road in Jammu city at the Jammu Medical College Hospital.

Meanwhile, the Afghan-based militant outfit, Harkatul Ansar, is reported to have claimed responsibility for yesterday's blast in Jammu city. A caller claiming to be the spokesman of the outfit told UNI this morning on telephone that the explosion was carried out by them.

Reportage, Commentary on Western Hostage Situation

AFP Reports on Suspended Search

BK2707160195 Hong Kong AFP in English 1343 GMT 27 Jul 95

[Report by Surinder Oberoi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SRINAGAR, India, July 27 (AFP) — A fourth day of torrential rains disrupted the search Thursday [27 July] for five Western tourists abducted by Muslim militants, said officials in the Kashmir summer capital of Srinagar.

Police, meanwhile, said 12 people have died in the downpour, adding that flash floods have wiped away parts of highways and destroyed bridges in the Himalayan state.

They said the search for the Westerners have been temporarily halted around Pahalgam because the bad weather had made the region virtually inaccessable.

Indian officials also said that with the deteriorating weather, they were increasingly concerned about the safety of the hostages of the Muslim separatist group Al-Faran.

"The bad weather conditions, particularly the chill, is making it difficult for us to move into the woods," a senior army officer told reporters.

Flooding, landslides and a drop in temperatures have been reported over the past few days in the Himalayan mountain ranges where the hostages are believed to be held, they said.

Britons Paul Wells and Keith Managan and American Donald Hutchings were kidnapped by Al-Faran guerrillas on July 4 while trekking near the mountain resort of Pahalgam, 100 kilometers (62 miles) east of here.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

German Dirk Hasert and Norwegian Hans Ostro were seized in separate incidents in the same area four days later.

Al-Faran has demanded the release of 21 Muslim militants from Indian prisons and threatened to kill the hostages if the authorities do not agree to their demand.

The Indian government has ruled out the release of any Muslim militants and appealed to the kidnappers to release their hostages.

Four women died Thursday when their house collapsed in Kashmir's Baramulla district, a police spokesman said, taking the toll of weather-related deaths to 11 in the northern frontier state over the past few days.

Four militants, meanwhile, were gunned down in separate overnight encounters with Indian security troops, an army officer said Thursday.

In Srinagar, the army has been put on alert after the river Jehlum, which passes through the city of one million, rose above a danger mark, officials said.

A number of rivers and mountain streams have burst their banks and landslides and mudslips have been reported in several districts of the Himalayan region.

A government spokesman said the main highway between Srinagar and Jammu, the winter capital of Kashmir, has been shut after portions of the road were torn away by floodwaters.

The highway between Srinagar and Leh, in Ladakh, has also been closed, he said, and a number of bridges toppled.

The Muslim separatist campaign in Kashmir, India's only Muslim- majority state, has left more than 12,000 people dead since 1989.

Daily Views Pakistan Mediation

BK2607021895 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 25 Jul 95 p 11

[Editorial: "Meddler, not mediator"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] That Maulana Fazlur Rehman — leader of the Pakistan Jamait-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan, chairman of the Pakistan National Assembly's Foreign Relations Committee and self-appointed mediator in the Kashmir hostages issue — had to return home from New Delhi in a somewhat disappointed state of mind says something about the real aim of his recent expedition. The fact that the Maulana terminated his trip even before he had paid a visit to Deoband, which was the stated purpose of his journey, further seemed to confirm that getting a toehold into the hostages issue and not visiting the seat of Islamic learning in UP [Uttar Pradesh] was why he had undertaken the journey in the first instance. He might have been spared all that trouble if someone had pointed it out to him that even the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) had condemned the holding of innocent foreign tourists as hostages by the Al Faran group in Kashmir as an un-Islamic act and there was little reason why a man of religion should meddle in such irreligious endeavours. It could be that the Maulana felt encouraged to appoint himself as the mediator after the US and British envoys in Islamabad urged him to undertake the onerous task. That was unfortunate since it flew right into the face of the US State Department's oft-stated policy of never negotiating with terrorists.

Having said that, there still could be some truth in the Maulana's claim that the Al Faran group had been in touch with him from Kashmir. That, in fact, is understandable since the Al Faran group, which is mainly composed of Pakistan-based mercenaries, was finding itself badly stuck with the hostages issue, and the Maulana's mediation could provide it with the necessary face saving device to get over the impasse. But more than that, there is another element in the situation. Since the indigenous Kashmiri militant groups had been losing their virulence and some of them were not averse to more moderate approaches, Pakistan was pushing more and more mercenaries into the Valley so that they called the shots and acquired a certain locus standi. The abduction of the foreign tourists by a hitherto unheard of group called Al Faran may have attracted a lot of media attention but also provoked universal condemnation. The Maulana's mission in inviting himself to play the mediator was expected to retrieve the position for the mercenaries. New Delhi has done the sensible thing by refusing to bite the bait. Left to his own devices, the Maulana, who for a moment looked like an actor in search of a role, decided not to risk any further loss of face and returned home.

Daily Praises Government 'Firmness'

BK2707033295 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 26 Jul 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Firmness in Kashmir"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Centre has shown exemplary firmness in refusing to accept the militants' demand for the release of jailed terrorists in exchange for the five foreign hostages in Kashmir. The mistake that was made in the cases of Dr Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of the then Union Home Minister, Mufti Mohammed Sayeed, in 1989 and of Mr K. Doraiswamy, executive director of the Indian Oil Corporation in 1991, when militants were released to secure the freedom of the two hostages, has lately not been repeated. It is an acknowledged fact that terrorism can only be curbed by

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the adoption of a tough line. Any concession is questionable, for the subversives will see it as a sign of weakness on the part of the authorities and indulge in more depredations. They will also flaunt their success in securing the release of the jailed militants as a moral victory and thereby cow down an already terrified local population. The only response to such incidents of abduction is to call their bluff by not yielding any ground and highlighting the essentially cowardly nature of such acts where innocent people, who have nothing to do with the unrest, are targeted.

True, there is the threat of the hostages being killed. Since the terrorists, as their activities testify, operate outside the norms of civilised society, they may resort to the senseless killing of men in captivity. Considering that terrorists think nothing of planting bombs in crowded public places, the danger of the hapless hostages being put to death cannot be ruled out. In this particular instance, as the bomb blast in Jammu showed, those responsible for the militancy in Kashmir and their patrons across the border have no qualms about killing innocent people. At the same time, however, it is also clear from such acts that they are motivated by a sense of desperation, presumably because they have realised that their "rebellion" in Kashmir is not yielding any dividend and that the Indian Government is slowly getting a grip on the situation. But the answer to the dawning of sense is to step up the security operations and make it abundantly clear that it is the writ of the authorities that will prevail in the State, and not of the militants. In any event, whatever was the militants' objective in taking hostages — perhaps diverting attention from Karachi and showing that insurgency is continuing in Kashmir — the fact is that their ploy has misfired by revealing the nature of their activity and the hidden hand of their patron.

Iran

Prayer Leaders Address Bosnia in Friday Sermons

Amini Condemns World 'Silence'

LD2807143195 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT 28 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Qom, Central Province, July 28, IRNA — Today's Friday [28 July] prayer leader of the holy city of Qom Ayatollah Ibrahim Amini here condemned the international community's silence towards the crimes committed by the Serbs in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Appreciating the positive steps taken by the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in lifting the arms embargo against Bosnia, the senior cleric expressed hope that the Islamic countries in their capacities will dispatch all types of assistance to the oppressed and defenseless Bosnian people.

He also called upon the Iranian people to take an active part in the solidarity week with the Bosnian people.

The solidarity week with the Bosnian people is to start throughout the country from tomorrow.

Emami-Kashani Calls For 'Generous Aid'

LD2807103895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 28 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The people of Tehran today staged the Friday [28 July] prayers at Tehran University campus under the leadership of Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani.

In his first sermon, Ayatollah Emami-Kashani referred to the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Reza, peace be upon him, and set out to describe that great imam's virtues by references to history and Islamic tradition.

In his second sermon, the acting Friday prayer leader of Tehran spoke about the approaching 16th anniversary of the first Tehran Friday prayers. He then stressed the religious and political importance of Friday prayers and said that these rites are a religious duty for all Muslims, as they act like a spiritual forum where the pious faithful can communicate with the Almighty. In their political dimension, the Friday prayers provide the means for the presence of world Muslims on the arena of defending their political and economic rights.

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani then spoke about the upcoming week of solidarity with the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and referred to the attention given recently by Islamic countries to the fate of that Muslim nation.

He said: Right from the outset, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been a supporter of the oppressed Muslim nation of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Iran will continue its efforts to lift the arms embargo on the Bosnian Muslims and strengthen their defense capabilities.

The acting Friday prayer leader of Tehran called on the Muslim nation of Iran to mark the week of solidarity with the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina by giving generous aid and donations to that oppressed nation. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Further on Emami-Kashani Remarks

LD2807110595 Tehran IRNA in English 1044 GMT 28 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA — A senior cleric on Friday [28 July] said that it is now clear to the world that the West does not want Muslims to exist at the heart of Europe.

"This explains why international organizations have done nothing to help the defenceless people of Bosnia and have even in some cases given green light to the agressors," Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani said in his Friday prayer sermons.

He also lauded the recent decision taken by foreign ministers of the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to help Bosnia. The ayatollah was referring to a recent meeting of the foreign ministers of the OIC Contact Group held upon an initiative of Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Pointing to latest successes gained by Iranian students in various international olympiads the ayatollah said that their achievements proved that Iranian youth enjoyed excellent talents for progress in scientefic fields.

The substitute Friday prayer leader of Tehran expressed hope such talents would be used for expediting the economic and soical development of the country.

Bosnian Muslims Urged To Accept Muslims' Help

NC2707132195 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 24 Jul 95 p 2

[Editorial: "Precious Opportunities Should Not Be Lost"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Returning from Geneva where he had attended the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] Contact Group Conference on Bosnia, the Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati described the decisions reached at the session as positive and practical. He emphasized the remarkable contrast between the outcomes of the OIC Contact Group session and the London conference.

He added that the Islamic countries no longer abide by the arms sanctions on Bosnia. Elaborating on the decision taken by the OIC Contact Group, the Iranian foreign minister further stated that it was decided in Geneva that the defense ministers and the chiefs of the general staff of the members of the OIC Contact Group should soon explore avenues of aiding Bosnia. Moreover, other Islamic countries have undertaken to provide the Bosnian Muslims with vital means of self-defense.

It is good news that a high-level Bosnian diplomatic military delegation, headed by the Bosnian president, is currently in Split, Croatia to conclude pacts on a joint defense.

Simultaneously, the appalling atrocities and heinous crimes perpetrated by the Serbs have raised such deep sympathetic feelings toward the plight of innocent Bosnian Muslims among liberal-minded people throughout the world that humanitarian relief aids are pouring into Bosnia to alleviate the tribulations of the oppressed blue-eyed European Muslims.

Although broad-minded people and world Muslims in particular, have always voiced support for Bosnian Muslims, unfortunately, due to the collusion and underhanded deals among world powers, and due to the Bosnian Muslims' reliance on international forums, the circumstances of Muslims in Bosnia have steadily aggravated.

It has been reported that when the UN secretary-general's representative, 'Ismat Kittani, was asked at the session of the OIC Contact Group foreign ministers why the UN peacekeepers failed to safeguard the areas to which they were assigned, and why they sidestepped the Serbs, he responded with nonchalance: "We did not have adequate forces to withstand the Serbian assaults." And when asked why he did not call for the dispatch of more UN forces, and why he rejected the offer of forces by the OIC members, he simply kept silent.

It is hoped that the Bosnian Muslim government, disillusioned by what has happened so far, will make the most of the present opportunities. Heedless of the commotion and ballyhoo by the world powers, and not reliant on international circles for help, the Bosnian nation should depend on Allah and Islam first, and on Islamic countries and itself second, striving to retrieve its glory and dignity.

Bosnian Muslims should be well aware of the fact that all hardships and sufferings will sooner or later result in the victory of good over evil.

Report Views Mohsen Rafiqdust, State of Nation

BR2407144895 Milan IL SOLE-24 ORE in Italian 20 Jul 95 p 7

[Report by Alberto Negri: "All the (Former) Martyrs' Power"]

[FBIS Translated Text] What happened to the hezbollah's revolution? Where are Khomeyni's "Red Guards," the diehards of combatant Islam? Now, 16 years on, those who did not die in battle against Iraq or in the attacks mounted by the Mojahedin-e Khalq and who survived the infighting, have gotten ahead; they sit behind

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

desks administering power. They live in luxury homes with swimming pools in the upper part of Tehran, far from the smog and the noise, and above all increasingly distant from the disinherited who still live in the southern neighborhoods, grappling with the 90 percent inflation and with the subsidies from a government that spends $7-8 billion a year on a costly and extremely inefficient welfare service.

Mohsen Rafiqdust is a powerful man, a very powerful man. Admired, hated, probably feared. In Iran he is said to be as important as the president.

Rafiqdust is the founder of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard; the sponsor of the hezbollah in Lebanon; the former minister responsible, during the years of the war against Iraq, for arming the pasdaran troops, the backbone of Iran's military might. It is he who, as chairman of the Foundation of the Oppressed and Self-Sacreficers (Boniad-e Mostaz'afan va Janbazan), controls more money than any other Iranian. He does whatever he wants and is answerable only to the Spiritual Guide, Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i.

His headquarters in Tehran, which was also the headquarters of the pasdaran — a huge block of three concrete buildings 15 stories high — is said to be one of the top centers of power in the Islamic Republic. The Foundation is not above the law, but it is so autonomous and independent that it can permit itself to ignore the law. One Western banker had this to say about the Foundation: "They are certainly not suffering as a result of the currency squeeze and the debts. They have such huge assets that they can do without the banks."

Boniad-e is certainly not the only such institution in Iran. Another very wealthy one is the Reza Foundation, named for the eighth imam, which by tradition receives a large proportion of donations and bequests, especially in the form of farm land and real estate: It virtually controls the economy of the whole of Khorasan and of the Mashhad region. Another is the Khordad 15 June foundation, famous for having offered the reward of $2 million that hangs over the head of Salman Rushdie, author of "Satanic Verses." Then there is Boniad-e Shahid, the Martyrs' Foundation, created to help the wounded and the families of war victims. According to the usually well-informed monthly, IBB (IRAN-ITALIA-BUSINESS), it owns between 20 and 100 percent of the shares in 250 companies formerly owned by the shah.

Foundations such as the Martyrs are not subject to any tax obligations, and their capital is not in any way monitored by the government. They own industries, land, hotels, and large downtown areas. Apart from these agencies or foundations, there are others that evade all inquiries and that belong directly to the administration of the spiritual guide.

They are like ministries, but enjoy greater freedom of action. What can you say, moreover, when the Islamic Propaganda Organization receives authorization to construct a giant oil refinery in the (tax-free) free zone of Sareh? Nothing, except to add that the petroleum minister had to ratify a decision of which he had not even been informed.

This is the state within a state of the Islamic Republic of Iran; this is the network of power relations which binds the country's economy directly to the ruling ayatollahs. The Majles, the parliament, can issue as much legislation as it wants and ministers can issue whatever decrees they want, but the foundations remain immune; they regard themselves as standing aloof.

They are the pillars of the revolution, which support a network of patronage, the organization of support for the Islamic Republic, the balance between conservatives and moderates, and even relations between the two most important catalysts in Iranian politics — the spiritual guide, Khamene'i, and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Outside of this circle almost nothing counts in terms of power. The radicals, or the so-called Left of the Islamic Party, who look towards Mohatshemi or Montazeri, have of course been excluded from the leadership of the foundations.

Rafiqdust, chairman of the most important of these foundations, wields influence that now extends well beyond national boundaries. "Our investments in industry, mining, agriculture, transport, and tourism," he said "create a volume of business which, at the official exchange rate of 3,000 riyals to the dollar, amounted to no less than $2 billion in 1994. But Boniad-e is an agency that earns in the economic field and spends in the social field; we provide assistance to 400,000 people, including 120,000 invalids."

He sat behind a huge desk which made him look even smaller than his actual height of around 1.6 metres. But he manages to dominate his interlocutors with his penetrating, darting black eyes and with the help of a seat considerably lower than his own which he provides for his guests. During the conversation a team of pasdaran-photographers suddenly entered; after taking a couple of shots they were dismissed with a wave of the hand, like you would brush away an irritating and insignificant swarm of flies. The photograph that he likes best is the one that he keeps on the desk, which shows him in military uniform with Imam Khomeyni. When asked, he does not hesitate to provide several copies to visitors to his headquarters.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

With the same energy that he displayed during wartime, Rafiqdust issues orders from here to an entire galaxy of 800 different firms and institutions.

One element of these possessions, an industrial and mining agency, represents 120 firms and factories alone, with 50,000 employees and an output equivalent to 19 percent of the nation's total in that field. The foundation owns vast real estate assets, including some outside Iran, and also shares in companies and banks — assets mostly acquired after Shah Reza Pahlavi's escape and increased by means of subsequent investment and acquisitions. He admitted that Boniad-e has various kinds of activities and assets abroad. "Especially in the Middle East." In the United States too? "Yes, but it is only one building in New York, registered by an independent activity." It is not clear what he means by "independent activities." Probably offshore companies, registered in some tax haven, which according to rumors in Tehran control shares in real estate assets not only in the United States but in southern Europe too.

"Our Foundation's agencies," Rafiqdust explained, "are entirely independent of the government. Apart from these, there are four welfare centres, including that responsible for assets, which owns more than 10,000 buildings, including houses." Here is another example: The fabric agency provides 25 percent of national output, and the soft drinks sector—including such firms as Zamzam (formerly Pepsi Cola)—supplies 45 percent of domestic consumption. But he is mainly interested in the major infrastructure projects in which Boniad-e is involved: "March 1996 will see the completion of the rail link from the Persian Gulf and Iran to the former Soviet republics. We will become a bridge between Europe and Asia."

His career shows him to be a tough guy. Before becoming head of the Revolutionary Guard, this bearded sixty-year-old was expelled from university in his youth for his opposition to the coup that overthrew the Mossadeq government. He then became a follower of the Imam Khomeyni when the latter headed the first revolt against the shah in summer 1963. He was imprisoned and tortured by Savac. He spent four years in Pahlavi's jails. "For a long time after that," he said, "I lived in hiding." This is how he remembers the Imam: "He was a great thinker, a spiritual person unconcerned with earthly matters." Was it you who dealt with the latter? "I, too, was an idealist," he replied.

In fact Rafiqdust gives more thought to specifics than he does to memories of his youth or to revolutionary ideals. Foreigners engaged in joint ventures with the Foundation of the Oppressed can expect many benefits from him, because investments made through Boniad-e are not covered by national law, are not subject to the upheavals that affect the country, and there are no problems about transferring funds and remitting profits.

Rafiqdust is powerful, very powerful. But even for him there are events that cannot be swept away with a mere wave of the hand, like some irritating fly. There is one matter that affects him closely, albeit indirectly: It is the charge brought against his brother, Morteza Rafiqdust, for the irregular withdrawal of $70 million from the Saderat bank.

Now the trial has begun — which is unusual in Iran, where until recently all scandals implicating senior figures were regularly silenced. Mohammed Taghi Banki, budget chief and director of the National Industrial Agency, has also been investigated; he faces charges, together with eight others, of misappropriation of funds totalling several billion riyals. The investigating judges also have their eye on the director of Iran's iron and steel agency, Ali Shekarriz, head of the Foulad Moubarake plant, constructed by Italimpianti [Italian Industrial Plant Company] — a huge project that consumed billions of dollars to get it working.

Is there a bribesville in Tehran? Perhaps it is too early to say, but some people are already trying to create a scandal surrounding a suspect administration pervaded by creeping corruption at all levels. The weekly, PAYAM E DANESHJU ("Students' Messenger") carried a very sharp attack on Rafsanjani and his son for their economic interests and very profitable trade activities in the offshore centers of Queshm and Kish. No arrests were made, but the newspaper's offices were destroyed and the editorial staff received death threats. The Tehran papers are full of talk about corruption, the currency black market, and the loss of moral standards in public life.

"Contraband goods — worth a total of some $3-5 billion a year — involve state bodies that exploit the immunity and the resources that they possess." This is a serious charge, and it was made by a very prominent figure — pasdaran general Mohammed Abu. In the Islamic Republic governed by the ayatollahs, when money and power are at stake, the principles of justice and equity embodied in the Koran are the first to be violated.

Furthermore, if we add to this the fact that the election campaign has now virtually begun — parliamentary elections take place next March, and a few months after that a new president is due to be elected — it is clear why the atmosphere in the capital is beginning to grow hot. According to the constitution, Rafsanjani cannot stand a third time. "He will not do so and he will not try to change the law," his spokesman, Gahdiri Abiane said; "he is convinced that he can serve the country in a different way, too." Gahdiri Abiane —

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

who speaks almost perfect Italian, having spent 10 years in Italy, which he left only after the revolution broke out in order to become one of the leading players in the kidnap at the U.S. embassy — stressed the "great consensus" of the masses around Ali Akhbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. The "shark," as he is called, because of his fierce determination to destroy his enemies, will not leave the Iranian political scene so soon. There is a rhyme that has remained popular among the people of Tehran, that says, "Akbar [as published] Rakhbar, Khamene'i par par"; it means, "Akhbar (Rafsanjani) in command of Khamene'i underground."

But the dynamics of the power struggle are further complicated by the clash between the spiritual guide and the president, between conservatives and moderates. There is a single party — the Islamic Party — but it has at least four or five factions. None of them can be classed as "hawks" or "doves," as U.S. observers often do. The embargo decreed by Clinton merely strengthens the rhetoric of a regime that basically still needs the "Great Satan" as a buggaboo in order to rally support around the ayatollahs. But Iran's real major enemy, as it was for the Soviet Union in the previous decade, is Iran itself — its power system, the decline of its public life, and its corruption. The revolution has been dead and buried for some time.

HAMSHAHRI Details New Press Law Proposal

95LA0263A Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 27, 29, 30 May 95 [FBIS Translated Text]

[27 May p 8] [Boxed item] Note:

The amended press law proposal was presented to the speaker of the Majles by 16 deputies. This proposal is comprised of nine chapters, 60 articles, and 30 notes.

The Social Service of HAMSHAHRI newspaper, in order to help the Majles devise and ratify the new press law, will provide the text of the proposed law for the public, especially the experts on the rights of the press and journalists.

It is hoped that the exchange of ideas, criticism, and opinion concerning this proposal will increase the comprehensiveness and enduring nature of the press law and its conformity with the spirit of the Constitution and the intellectual and cultural atmosphere of the press. HAMSHAHRI is prepared to publish the opinions of experts regarding the proposed press law. [end boxed item]

Social

Examination of the request of the applicant regarding the issuance of a license, change in the license to publish, and temporary closure shall be the responsibility of the Press Oversight Committee.

Chapter 1. Definition of the Press

Article 1. In this law, the press consists of publications that are regularly published under the same name, dated, and numbered consecutively, with news, analysis, educational, informational, and research purposes in scientific, cultural, economic, political, social, and athletic areas.

Note. Extra editions are for publications that are published regularly.

Chapter 2. The Mission of the Press

Article 2. The mission of the press in the Islamic Republic regime consists of:

1. enlightenment of the public, increasing knowledge, and raising the level of understanding of the readership;
2. advancement of the goals stated in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic;
3. efforts to negate disuniting classifications and not pitting various strata of the society against each other;
4. fighting the manifestations of colonialist culture, propagation of the Islamic culture, and carrying out the duty of instruction to do good and prevent evil;
5. the protection and strengthening of national unity, dignity, and power.

Chapter 3. Press Rights

Article 3. The press has the right to publish and inform the public concerning constructive opinions and criticism and the suggestions and explanations of the people and the officials in accordance with Islamic standards and national interests.

Note. Constructive criticism is contingent upon logic and reasoning and the avoidance of insults, denigration, and destruction and must be based on actual documented premises.

Article 4. No government or non-government official has the right to impose pressure on the press to publish a subject or article or engage in the censorship or control of publications.

Article 5. The acquisition and publication of internal and external news for the purpose of increasing public awareness and protection of the interests of society in accordance with the law is the legal right of the press, and government and public officials, institutions, and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

organizations are responsible for offering correct information and news concerning their duties and operations.

Article 6. The press is not obliged to reveal its news and information sources to any government or nongovernment official or organization.

Note: If crimes cited in Articles 30, 31, and 35 of this law are committed, the press is obliged to reveal its news and information sources to the proper judicial authorities as accomplices to the crime. [as published]

Article 7. Any aggression against journalists or preventing them from obtaining and preparing reports is prohibited, and if a reporter or his newspaper registers a complaint, it will be subject to prosecution.

Note: The above law does not include cases in which a reporter is trying to obtain and publish prohibited news and information stated in this law, and the proper judicial courts may prosecute the violator.

Chapter 4. Limitations on the Press

Article 8. The newspapers are not constrained, except in the event that they harm the foundations of Islam and the public rights, as specified in this chapter:

1. publishing heathenish issues and those against the guidelines of religion and propagating anything that harms the foundations of the Islamic Republic;
2. spreading debauchery and matters contrary to public decency through words, pictures, or illustrations;
3. propagating waste and extravagance;
4. creating conflict among the strata of the society, especially through ethnic and religious issues;
5. exciting and encouraging individuals and groups to commit acts against the security, dignity, and interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the country or abroad;
6. revealing and publishing confidential documents, instructions, secrets of the armed forces, or military maps and strongholds, or publishing closed session discussions of the Majles and closed sessions of the Justice Department and investigations of the judicial authorities without legal permission or the accusations against an accused prior to being proven in the judicial courts or details of criminal investigations and trials and trials related to divorce and family conflicts;
7. insulting Islam and what it holds sacred as well as insulting the grand leader and proven sources of emulation;
8. slandering Islam;
9. slandering and insulting actual and legal persons held in legitimate esteem, even through the publication of pictures, sketches, or caricatures;
10. plagiarizing and quoting matters from the deviant and anti-Islamic press, parties, groups, and individuals (domestic and foreign) in a way that propagates them;

— also, publishing any matter from individuals that cooperate with counterrevolutionary publications abroad. (The limits of the above instances will be specified in the bylaws.);

Note. Plagiarism is intentionally claiming the authorship of all or a significant portion of the writing of other citizens, even in the form of translation.

Article 9. The following instances are prohibited:

1. printing and publishing of a publication for which no license is issued or its license has been revoked or it has been closed temporarily or permanently;
2. publishing a publication contrary to the specifications in the issued license by the Press Oversight Committee cited in Article 13 of this law;
3. publishing a publication that in any way, in terms of shape or insignia, is mistaken for an existing one;
4. publishing a publication outside the specifications cited in Article 20;
5. centers for publishing, printing, and sale of publications are not allowed to print, publish, or sell newspapers and publications that are determined by the Press Oversight Committee to be contrary to principles cited in this law.

[29 May p 12]

Social

[Boxed item] Note. Part 1 of the new proposed press law, including nine articles, was published on page 8 on Saturday, 6 Khordad [27 May]. Part 2 of this report follows today.

The Social Service of HAMSHAHRI newspaper, in order to help the Majles devise and ratify the new press law, will provide the text of the proposed law for the public, especially the experts on the rights of the press and journalists. It is hoped that through the exchange of ideas, criticism, and opinion concerning this proposal, the comprehensiveness and enduring nature of the press law and its conformity with the spirit of the Constitution and the intellectual and cultural atmosphere of the press will increase. HAMSHAHRI is prepared to publish the opinions of experts regarding the proposed press law. [end boxed item]

Chapter 5. Qualifications of Applicants and the License Issuing Process

Article 10. Publishing publications by actual or legal persons with Iranian capital and the obtaining of a li-

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

cense from the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance is permitted.

Article 11. License applicants must have the following qualifications:

1. Iranian citizenship
2. commitment to the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran
3. minimum of 25 years of age
4. good reputation
5. no bankruptcy due to deception or being at fault and no history of penal convictions

Note 1. If a legal establishment is applying for a publication license, all members of the board of directors must meet the above qualifications, and the request must be made by the highest authority of the institution on the basis of the charter.

Note 2. For internal bulletins of legal establishments and bulletins of news agencies that provide individuals and publishing establishments with news and pictures, the permission of the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance and adherence to Article 2 of this law are sufficient.

Note 3. With one license, more than one publication cannot be published.

Note 4. The licensee is responsible with regard to the general policy of the publication.

Note 5. Prime ministers; ministers; governors general; military, police, and gendarmerie commanders; directors of government organizations; general managers and chairmen of boards of directors of government companies and banks; deputies of the two Majleses; ambassadors; governors; mayors; chairmen of city councils; members of SAVAK; chairmen of the Rastakhiz Party Office in Tehran, provincial capitals, and cities; and those affiliated with the previous regime who have occupied these positions within the period of 15 Khordad 1342 [5 June 1963] to 22 Bahman 1357 [11 February 1979], and also those who during this period have been propaganda servants of the past regime through the press, radio, television, or making public speeches, are prohibited from publishing publications.

Note 6. Transfer of the publication upon the request of the licensee to another person or to his heir (or heirs), should the licensee die, is possible if the contents of the beginning of this article are observed.

Article 12. An applicant for publishing a publication is responsible to introduce an actual person (himself or another person) as the person in charge of the publication. In addition to the qualifications cited in Article 11, the responsible manager of the publication must meet the following qualifications as well:

1. He must possess at least a bachelors degree suitable to the publication.
2. The responsible manager must be practically and actually engaged in the publication he is managing.
3. He must not be the responsible manager of more than one publication.
4. He must be familiar with the primary language of the publication.
5. He must have at least one year of experience as a journalist.

Note. The administration of the publication and all its contents will be the responsibility of the manager.

Article 13. Members of the Press Oversight Committee must be trustworthy Muslims of political and moral competence, faithful to the Islamic revolution, and experts in the cultural and press issues of the country. They shall be comprised of:

A. a representative of the minister of Islamic culture and guidance;
B. one of the responsible managers of the press selected by it;
C. a Majles deputy selected by the Majles;
D. a teacher of the Qom Seminary, selected by the Society of Qom Seminary Teachers;
E. a university professor, selected by the minister of culture and higher education;
F. a supreme court judge selected by the head of the judicial branch.

Note 1. Members of this committee shall be selected by the related authorities within one month prior to the completion of the period determined for every term for a period of two years upon the invitation of the minister of Islamic culture and guidance.

Note 2. The meetings of the committee shall be official with the presence of at least two-thirds of the members and the decision valid with at least four votes.

Note 3. The Administrative Office of the Press Oversight Committee will be located in the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance, which will be in charge of administering the affairs of the committee and notification of its ratifications.

Note 4. The Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance is responsible for implementing the ratifications of the Press Oversight Committee.

Note 5. The Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance is responsible for calling for and holding the election

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

session cited in Paragraph B of this article, and the authority to determine the competence of the nominees in the elections, on the basis of the requirements at the head of this article, shall be the four-member committee composed of those individuals cited in Paragraphs A, C, D, and F.

Article 14. Investigation of the request of applicants regarding the issuance of licenses, changes in the license, and also revocation of the publishing license and the temporary closure of the publication shall be the responsibility of the Press Oversight Committee.

Note. The revocation of the publishing license by the Press Oversight Committee shall be exclusive to the following instances.

The written request of the licensee; the loss of the qualifications cited in Article 11 of the law; the content of Articles 19, 32, 33, and 34 of the law; and frequent violations of Articles 20, 22, 23, and 25 of the law.

Article 15. If a publication frequently violates the limits and mission of the press, the Press Oversight Committee, directly or upon the request of the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance, will investigate the violations and if the revocation of the publishing license is within the authority of the court, while temporarily closing the publication, present its written request to the proper court.

Note. The period of temporary closure of the publication by the Press Oversight Committee will be deducted from the total period of temporary closure by the proper court.

Article 16. The Press Oversight Committee is responsible for reporting to the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance for implementation, within a maximum period of two weeks from the date of delivery of the file of applicants for publishing publications by the Central Office of Domestic Press to the Administrative Office of the Press Oversight Committee, the acceptance or rejection of the request on the basis of this law, and for mentioning the reasons.

Note 1. The Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance is responsible for making the necessary investigations within a maximum of one and a half months from the date of official registration of the license application and submitting the file for decision to the Administrative Office of the Press Oversight Committee.

Note 2. The Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance is responsible for taking steps within a maximum of two weeks regarding the implementation of the ratification of the committee.

Article 17. If the responsible manager loses the qualifications cited in Article 11 (as determined by the Press Oversight Committee), dies, or resigns, the licensee is responsible to introduce another person who meets the qualifications within a maximum period of one month to the Administrative Office of the Press or the publication license will be revoked temporarily or permanently, as determined by the Oversight Committee cited in Article 13.

Note 1. Until the competence of the new responsible manager has been verified, the responsibilities of the responsible manager shall be conferred on the licensee of the publication.

Note 2. The licensee may submit a request for the dismissal of the responsible manager of his publication along with presenting a new responsible manager to the Administration Office of the Press Oversight Committee, and the Oversight Committee shall be responsible for making a decision within a maximum period of one month, on the basis of Article 12.

Article 18. The responsible manager is responsible for publishing the related publication within a period of nine months after the license is issued (this period is 12 months for annual publications). Otherwise, with one written warning and an extension of two months, if it is not published without a justifiable reason, the publishing license will no longer be valid.

Article 19. Irregular publishing of a publication within a period of one year without a justifiable reason (as determined by the Oversight Committee) will result in the revocation of the license.

Article 20. Every issue should contain the name of the licensee, the responsible manager, the address of the office and the print shop in which the publication is printed, and also the order of the publication, extension of distribution, the policy of the publication, and the kind of publication on a designated page permanently. The print shops are also responsible for observing the contents of this article.

[30 May p 12]

Social

Article 21. Publications are permitted to print commercial advertisements on the basis of the regulations of the establishment and supervision over the procedures and activities of commercial advertisement centers.

Article 22. Every newspaper or magazine must prepare sealed ledgers on the basis of the law, record in them all its revenues and expenditures, and send its annual balance sheet of revenues and expenditures to the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance. The Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance may examine

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the ledgers of the establishment whenever it finds it necessary.

Note. The responsible managers of the press are responsible for reporting to the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance in writing the number of sales of every issue of their publication simultaneously with the printing of the next issue.

Article 23. The responsible officials shall regularly deliver to the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance, free of charge, five copies of every issue of the publication prior to distribution and receive a receipt. In addition, the managers of print shops are not permitted to allow the publication to leave the print shop (with the exception of newspapers) without receiving a copy of the receipt.

Article 24. The entry into the country of any foreign publication that is not a threat to the general security and is not contrary to the public morality and decency is permitted.

The related bylaws will be prepared by the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance and approved by the Cabinet.

Chapter 6. Crimes

Article 25. If matters, including insults or untrue slander or criticism, are observed that are against (actual or legal) persons in the press, those persons have the right to send a response in writing to the same publication, and that publication is responsible for printing such explanations and responses on the same page, in the same column, and in the same size print used to publish the original matter, free of charge. If the size of the response exceeds twice that of the original, the responsible manager has the right not to publish the text of the response, unless the person pays for the cost of the additional size. If the respondent dies, the heirs will have the right to respond.

Article 26. The responsible manager of the publication may refuse to publish the response in the following instances:

1. if the publication has corrected the matter appropriately and in a desirable manner;
2. if the response is contrary to the law or contains words the printing of which is contrary to the law or includes phrases contrary to public decency and morality;
3. if the response is presented after two months from the date of the publication of the matter in protest.

Article 27. If the publication, in addition to the response, raises new issues or explanations, the protester's right to respond is protected. Printing a part of the response in such a way that would make it incomplete or incomprehensible or adding matters to it shall be regarded as not having printed it, and the text of the response must be printed in one issue.

Article 28. The response of election nominees in the course of elections must be printed in the following issue of the publication, provided it has been submitted to the office of the publication at least six hours prior to the publication going into print.

Article 29. If, after the response is printed, it becomes clear that the matter published in the publication was true, all the related costs of the response shall be the responsibility of the respondent.

Article 30. Persons who reveal and publish confidential military documents and instructions and secrets of the military or the Guard Corps and maps of military strongholds in war time or peace time through the press shall be sent to the court to be investigated in accordance with the regulations.

Article 31. Anyone who through the press agitates and encourages the people explicitly to commit a crime or crimes against the internal security or foreign policy of the country, as anticipated in the general punishment law, if it has consequences, shall be sentenced as an accessory to the same crime, and if it has no consequences, he shall be treated in accordance with the opinion of the religious magistrate on the basis of the punishment law.

Article 32. Should anyone insult Islam and what it holds sacred and its obligations through the press, the publication concerned will be closed temporarily by the Press Oversight Committee and the file sent to the proper court for investigation. If a crime is proven, in addition to the religious ruling, the license for the publication will be revoked by the Oversight Committee.

Article 33. If a publication insults the leader or the Leadership Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran or the proven sources of emulation, the license of the publication shall be revoked by the Oversight Committee, and the responsible manager and the writer of the matter shall be introduced to the proper judicial courts and punished in accordance with the penal laws.

Article 34. Spreading debauchery through the publication of pictures, illustrations, and matters contrary to the public decency is considered a crime and shall cause the temporary closure of the publication, up to a maximum of four issues, and, if repeated, will cause the revocation of the publication by the Oversight Committee.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Article 35. The publication of closed-session discussions of the Majles and closed-session discussions of the Justice Department courts or investigations of intelligence and judicial authorities, the revelation of which is not allowed by law, is prohibited; if a violation occurs, the violator shall be dealt with in accordance with the punishment law.

Note. The investigation of crimes cited in Articles 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35 shall not be subject to complaint, and, in addition to the prosecutor, any citizen may submit his complaint to the proper authorities, and in this case investigation is obligatory.

Article 36. Except for these instances, in Articles 30 and 35 of the law, as well as with regard to the revelation of personal affairs, no report or issue is considered confidential, and the press is free to publish it, provided other press violations cited in this law do not occur.

Article 37. The publication of any matter, including accusations, slander, insults, obscene words, or insulting and similar statements against persons is prohibited, and the writer and the responsible manager shall be introduced to the judicial courts for punishment. The prosecution of these crimes shall be contingent upon complaint by a private claimant, and if the complaint is withdrawn at any stage, the prosecution shall stop.

Note 1. In the above cases, the (actual or legal) complainant may sue for damages he has suffered as a result of the publication of the matter against him, and the court is responsible to examine it and issue the appropriate ruling.

Note 2. Should the publication of matters mentioned in the above article concern a deceased person, but generally the insult is considered to be against his survivors, each of the legal heirs may register a penal and legal complaint in accordance with the above article and note.

Article 38. The publication of matters, including threats to violate the honor or dignity or reveal personal secrets, is prohibited, and the responsible manager and the writer shall be introduced to the judicial courts and shall be treated in accordance with the punishment laws.

Note. In Articles 38 and 39, while the case is in investigation and examination, the publication does not have the right to publish anything regarding the investigation while the complaint is being made. In the event of a violation, the public prosecutor or the Oversight Committee must issue orders to close the publication prior to the completion of investigation. This closure includes the first issue after notification, and, if repeated, the publication will be prevented until the issuance of the ruling of the court.

Pakistan

Official Denies Arms to Bosnia, Lauds U.S. Vote

BK2707144695 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan today dismissed the report that Islamabad has supplied weapons to Bosnia-Herzegovina in defiance of the UN arms embargo but questioned the legality of the sanctions. A Foreign Office spokesman at a weekly briefing said we do not accept the embargo. However, the dispatch of weapons to the war-ravaged country can only be made after the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] defense ministers meeting. No date has yet been fixed for the proposed meeting. The spokesman welcomed the U.S. Senate's decision calling on the world community to lift the arms embargo.

[Begin spokesman recording] We appreciate yesterday's decision of the U.S. Senate adopted by an overwhelming majority calling for the lifting of the arms embargo against the Bosnian Government. Pakistan has been amongst the staunchest supporters of the just Bosnian cause. This brave and valiant nation deserves unconditional support of the entire international community. [end recording]

Spokesman Comments on Ali's Afghan Visit, Bosnia

BK2807011495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali is to visit Afghanistan early next month to exchange views with Afghan leaders for the promotion of peace and conciliation in that country. He will visit Kabul, Herat, Qandahar, Mazar-e Sharif, and Jalalabad. A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad today that Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali will also explore possibilities of furthering political, economic, and cultural links between the two countries.

Answering a question, the spokesman described as baseless and irresponsible the reports and statements appearing in the Russian press that Pakistan was providing training to Tajiks, Tatars, and Chechens. To another question, the spokesman said Pakistan and other countries of the Organization of the Islamic Conference do not accept the validity of the UN arms embargo against Bosnia- Herzegovina. Pakistan will coordinate closely with other member states to strengthen the defense capability of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The spokesman has also taken serious note of the reported move by the Indian Government to hand over Jinnah House in Bombay to the Indian Council of Cultural Relations for its regional office. The spokesman

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

said this negates the promises made by the Indian Government, including the present leadership, that Jinnah House would be leased to Pakistan for its consulate there.

U.S. Urged To Pressure India on Regional Peace

BK2507134495 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 25 Jul 95 p 10

[Editorial: "Peace and Security in South Asia — Prime Minister's Propositions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, in a detailed meeting with U.S. Ambassador John C. Monjo, discussed the latest situation in Kashmir and the continuing atrocities by Indian troops there; India's military build-up, particularly its expanding nuclear and missile programs; and the impact of these policies on South Asia. She apprised him of her stand on these issues. The prime minister said that Pakistan not only wants an end to the arms race in South Asia but is willing to do everything possible to establish cordial relations with India if it agrees on a fair solution to the Kashmir dispute. The prime minister urged the U.S. Administration to use its influence to restrain India from its deplorable and aggressive activities so that our region can become a zone of peace and the limited resources of its countries can be used for the people's welfare. Meanwhile, Defense Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani has said that if India takes any action against Pakistan under the pretext of pursuing the freedom fighters, we will retaliate with full force and India will pay a heavy price for its aggression. The defense minister expressed the hope that India will not support any aggressive action against Pakistan.

The South Asian subcontinent is one of the regions in the world where peace and security is in serious danger and the chances of a nuclear conflict are very high. India is already an established nuclear power and is now striving to make a hydrogen bomb. Pakistan is also capable of making a nuclear bomb but has made a political decision to refrain from doing so. Yet how long can Pakistan desist from taking appropriate measures for its own defense if India continues its present policies? India has started frantic efforts to produce missiles. Its military installations and institutions are busy day and night preparing more and more destructive missiles. The large-scale production of Prithvi missiles — specially made to target Pakistani cities — has begun. The Indian Army has asked the Indian Defense Ministry to provide 100 Prithvi missiles. Production of the Agni, Tarshol, and many other missiles is also underway. Pakistan cannot ignore its defense; it has fallen prey to Indian aggression three times already. Pakistan currently lacks the capability to make long-range missiles, but because India has advanced so far in this field Pakistan has the right to take every step for its defense.

Obviously, this kind of arms race is not in the interests of the people of India or Pakistan. Both are underdeveloped countries with a per capita income of around $400. Per capita income in India is even less than Pakistan; millions of people there live in extreme poverty. Regrettably, India has not only failed to adopt a policy of using its resources for development purposes after reaching a fair solution to the Kashmir issue, it has also forced Pakistan to spend a sizable amount of its already limited resources on defense. This shows the mindlessness of the Indian leadership.

Many regional cooperation organizations have been formed and enjoyed considerable progress in the world, but the regional organization in this region, the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], is still stranded at the point it was at the time of its formation in 1985. There is no reason for this except that India is not ready to resolve its mutual differences with the other SAARC countries. The 1 billion people of the South Asian subcontinent could be free from the danger of war and overcome their poverty and backwardness to a great extent if the Indian leadership showed some wisdom and maturity. Several times Pakistan has advanced proposals to declare South Asia a nuclear-free and missile- free zone. Four years ago it proposed convening a five-country conference to remove the elements of tension in South Asia and stop the arms race. India has not responded positively to any of these proposals. This cannot be called anything but shortsightedness by the Indian leadership.

The United States claims that it wants peace in this region. As the sole superpower in the world, if it puts its full weight behind solving the Kashmir dispute the situation might improve greatly. We hope the U.S. ambassador will convey Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's views to his government and that, realizing his political and moral responsibility toward South Asia, President Clinton will advise India to adopt a wiser course.

'Unprovoked' Indian Firing Reported; 5 Killed

BK2807010695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Five people, including two women, were killed due to unprovoked and indiscriminate firing by Indian troops on a number of villages in Azad Kashmir from across the Line of Control. Reports say that four persons, including two women, were killed in Dudhnial, while one person was killed in Satwal sector. Meanwhile, a large number of refugees were forced

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

to take shelter in Pakistan due to the Indian security forces' atrocities in occupied Kashmir. Refugees coming from occupied Kashmir have told stories of grievous atrocities carried out on them by Indian security forces.

Uzbek Official Visits, Meets President Leghari

BK2507145095 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said a moderate, democratic, and progressive Pakistan can act as a bridge between the Muslim countries and the Western world. He was talking to the foreign minister of Uzbekistan, Mr. Abdulaziz Kamilov, who called on him at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [president house] today. The president said Pakistan could also play a crucial role for peace and stability in the region and in the world. He said Pakistan had cordial relations with all countries in the region except India with which we have tensions due to the unresolved Kashmir problem. More than 600,000 Indian troops have ruthlessly brutalized and as a consequence alienated the entire Kashmiri population. He thanked Uzbekistan for its continuous support for the just cause of self-determination of the Kashmiri people in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Referring to the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan, the president observed that both countries should focus on vital areas for economic cooperation and joint ventures in the agricultural, industrial, and mining sectors.

The foreign ministers of Uzbekistan assured of his government's full support to Pakistan on the Kashmir issue.

Pakistan and Uzbekistan held formal talks in Islamabad today. The Uzbek foreign minister, Mr. Abdulaziz Kamilov, met the foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, at the Foreign Office and held bilateral talks on matters of mutual interest. The talks reviewed the situation in the region, including Kashmir. The Uzbek foreign minister briefed the Pakistan foreign minister on Uzbek President Islam Karimov's proposal for holding a UN seminar on peace and security in Central Asia.

Bangladeshi Official Meets Leaders, Signs Agreement

BK2607142095 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The president, Mr. Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, has said that Pakistan and Bangladesh could benefit enormously by improving trade and economic relationship as the two countries have so many commonalities. The president was talking to the visiting minister of Bangladesh for commerce and information, Mr. Shamsul Islam, who called on him at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [president house] today. President Leghari said that the two countries should identify and focus on specific areas for cooperation between their public and private sectors. He lauded the successful education and population policies of the Bangladesh Government and said that Pakistan is also trying hard to bring down population growth rate from over 3 percent to about 2 percent and to increase its literacy rate, especially for the women. He said that Pakistan is now paying special attention on its human resource development and is also encouraging national and foreign investments for its accelerated socioeconomic development.

Bangladesh commerce minister also called on the prime minister, Benazir Bhutto. The prime minister was apprised of the ministerial- level talks to promote bilateral trade and identify possibilities for joint ventures. It was decided to export rice and railway carriages to Bangladesh and to explore the possibility to facilitate export and import between the two brotherly countries. Adviser to the prime minister for finance and economic affairs, Mr. V.A. Jaffery, was also present in the meeting.

Pakistan and Bangladesh signed an agreement in Islamabad today to augment cooperation in various fields. Under this agreement, many steps will be taken to promote trade, industrial cooperation, culture, agriculture, shipping services, tourism, education, and telecommunications between the two countries. Adviser to the prime minister for finance and economic affairs, Mr. V.A. Jaffery, and Minister for Commerce and Information of Bangladesh Mr. Shamsul Islam signed the agreement on behalf of their respective countries. The businessmen of two sides also held detailed discussion and signed an MoU [memorandum of understanding] agreed minutes, indicating various measures for increasing the scope of bilateral economic cooperation, particularly in the fields of trade and industry between Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Bhutto Addresses 'Terrorism,' Political Future

MS2807100095 London BBC Television Network in English 0700 GMT 27 Jul 95

[Interview with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto by correspondent Sue LLoyd-Roberts; place and date not given; from the "Breakfast News" broadcast; broadcast in progress — live or recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Bhutto] Did anybody do that...[referring to press allegations that Bhutto called the Altaf party "rats"]

[LLoyd-Roberts] I was told that you did.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Bhutto] I consider myself a democrat, and I would never consider anybody who was a political personality a rat. But let me tell you I have taken a very strong stand against terrorism. And I think that anybody who uses terroristic means is a coward. I think it's an absolutely cowardly act to go and plant a bomb in Harrods and blow up innocent citizens. I think it's a cowardly act if somebody goes and plants a bomb in Oklahoma and kills innocent citizens. And I think the people who laid an ambush and killed the law enforcing agencies and innocent women and children of Karachi are rats. So if you ask me what I think about terrorists, yes I think terrorists are rats. I think terrorists are cowards. I don't think terrorist don't have the courage to come into a political field and fight a political battle. They rely on the use of force to murder, to maim, to mutilate, and I am very much against terrorism.

[LLoyds-Roberts] Are you getting the cooperation from the British government that you want on this issue?

[Bhutto] When Mr Altaf Hussain sits in London and he gives a call for a strike in London and his militants to enforce that strike kill 30 innocent people a day, I think the British government has a moral responsibility to restrain Mr Altaf Hussain and say that you cannot use our soil for violence.

[LLoyds-Roberts] There has been an assassination attempt on you this year, do you fear for your life?

[Bhutto] It's a threat that is always there. But sometimes I look at myself and I say why would some many people, disparaged people, want to kill me, I mean it just doesn't make any sense to me at all. I mean from these militant extremists, religious groups, or from the Altaf group I just don't understand because we believe in solutions, we believe in rule of law. And then I think that maybe I threaten their interests, and they think that if they get me out of their way they can once again make Pakistan a haven for Arab extremism or for terrorism at an international level or even militancy in Karachi. And maybe if that's the reason they want to get rid of me then maybe what I'm doing is right, if I'm incurring the wrath of such groups.

[LLoyd-Roberts] Do you still have an appetite for public life, would you seek another term?

[Bhutto] Well another term is far away, that's 1998. So let's see how things are in 1998, but my father said to, I remember I accompanied him on his official visit to the United States when I was just a student and I was quite excited about meeting Dr Henry Kissenger, my father introduced me to him saying that my daughter is a fighter and she'll fight, she'll fight for me. And since then I look back and I think really he was right I am a fighter I don't give up easily, and I think I've still got the fight in me.

[LLoyd-Roberts] But politics has taken a heavy toll on your family, your father for example, one of your brothers, you've fallen out with another brother and your mother, does it sometimes appear too much of a price to pay?

[Bhutto] Well during the elections mummy sided with my brother so that was a little difficult, but after the elections my relations with my mother are fine, I think on a personal level we meet, we talk. My children just love being in her • ompany, I'd love to make up with my brother, he can be opposed to me and if he decides to support my political convictions I would welcome him to come and help me, but somehow or the other I think he got a little carried away by these people who said the male heir should inherit and your sister's not a Bhutto, she's got married and now she's a [word indistinct] and your the male heir and you should continue and I think he got a little carried away.

[LLoyd-Roberts] And do you enjoy yourself, are you enjoying your life?

[Bhutto] Well I always think of for my father politics was a romance, and once when he read a story an interview that Mrs Ghandi had given, she said politics is a duty, and he said she doesn't understand the meaning of the word politics, it's not a duty, it's a passion, it's an all-consuming passion, but now I find that for him it was an all-consuming passion but for me it's very much a duty. A sense of duty to my people, sense of duty to my country, and when I see the appalling poverty around, and I see for instance Pakistan is one of the nine most populated countries in the world, and we've done nothing about our population in the last 50 years, so whatever growth we have is taken away by population, and I see all these things that need to be done and I just thank god that I've got the opportunity to make that little change for my people and my country.

Police Launch 'Antiterrorist Action' in Karachi

BK2607142495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 26 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Karachi, Rangers and police started a target search for terrorists in some areas of Liaqatabad today. They have sealed various exit and entry routes of Liaqatabad No. 3, 4, and 5 where the authorities believe the terrorists are hiding after Rangers' rescue operation carried out in Gulbahar and Orangi areas.

In an antiterrorist action, the police raided a house in District Central and recovered a large quantity of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

arms and ammunition, mobile phone, pager, 30 cars and motorcycles which were snatched by the terrorists from different areas of the city and were used in terrorist activities. Police say the house was forcibly occupied by the Altaf Group terrorists and [they] were using its premises as the storage of arms. The police have also arrested 49 accused involved in various crimes from different parts of the city during the last 24 hours and recovered arms, narcotics, and stolen goods from their possession.

Meanwhile, two persons, including a woman, were killed and three others injured in incidents of firing in the city today.

MQM Leader Reviews Strikes After 'Barbaric Acts'

BK2607110295 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 26 Jul 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London — Altaf Hussain Chief of the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] vehemently condemned what he called the arrest of more than two thousand Muhajir of all age groups including old young and children from Orangi township and Liaqatabad and other colonies during grand operation launched by the rangers, police and other forces deployed for the purpose. He termed these acts as "blackest spot" of the people party rule.

He said, he had suspended two day weekly protest strike as a gesture of goodwill. But, the siege of colonies, massive arrests, raids of houses of innocent Muhajirs looting of their valuable have forced him to review his decision about the strike, he added.

In a critical statement issued from here and faxed to newspapers in Pakistan, the MQM Leader Altaf Hussain charged that the present government on the one hand holding talks with the MQM to show to the world, but alleged at same time carrying on "barbaric acts in colonies, besieged by the rangers, police and others where houses are raided and massive arrests irrespective of age are made and the arrested persons are taken to unknown places, where they are tortured. [no end quotation marks as published]

Official Talks Continue Between Government-MQM

Law Minister Denies 'Deadlock'

BK2707160695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Federal Law Minister N.D. Khan has said that there is no deadlock in the talks between the government and the Muhajir Qaumi Movement's [MQM] Altaf Group on the Karachi situation. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad today, he said that the two sides have agreed to continue the talks and find a political solution to the issue. He said that the government has sought clarifications from Altaf Group's negotiating team on some important points, which are necessary for the progress of the talks. After receiving clarifications on these points, agreement might emerge on some points, which were announced by the two sides. The law minister said that no mediation is needed to move the talks forward between the government and the Altaf Group.

Police in Karachi have arrested 82 criminals involved in a number of crimes from various parts of the city and seized weapons, drugs, liquor, and stolen motorcycles from them. Cases have been registered against the criminals and further investigations are continuing.

MQM Team Chief Hails Bhutto Remark

BK2707163595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The chief of the negotiating team of [Muhajir Qaumi Movement, MQM's] Altaf Group, Mr. Ajmal Dehlvi, has welcomed the statement by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto that there was no deadlock in talks with the Altaf Group and these will be continued. In an interview with PPI in Karachi, he said this was a positive development for the success of the negotiations to restore peace and tranquillity in Karachi. He said if the government removes their grievances and give assurances on their points they will certainly go to Islamabad to resume the dialogue. About the clarifications sought by the government from the Altaf Group negotiating team, he said they would restrict themselves to the agenda of the meeting.

An official press note says peace and calm prevailed in Karachi today. No untoward incident was reported till 1900.

Daily Reports on Fourth Round

BK2707123495 Islamabad THE NATION in English 27 Jul 95 p 11

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi — The fifth round of talks between government and MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] is heading towards uncertain situation. Talking to THE NATION on Wednesday [26 July] night, Chief of MQM's negotiating team Ajmal Dehlvi said that MQM team will participate in the fifth round of talks if before Monday the government assures that the joint declaration released by the government and MQM will be implemented, MQM will not be called Altaf Group, provocative statements will not be issued, talks will be held on the agenda instead of irrelevant affairs,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and the commitments will be honoured. If it is not done, the negotiations will be completely dead locked, he said. He said that government team has sought explanation but they have not received the papers as these were addressed to some Altaf Group. "If government seeks explanations from MQM, proper reply will be given, "he said. Ajmal Dehlvi said that government team had promised that the content of joint declaration will not be changed and the official media will announce the same as it is, but the government did not honour any commitments.

He said that a non-issue is being made an issue by calling MQM, Altaf Group. He said that such a flippant approach by the government will not solve any problem. He further said if, according to government, it is not an important issue, why it insists on calling MQM, Altaf Group. He said under these circumstances, how can one expect that government wants to resolve the crisis through negotiations.

He said that MQM negotiating team presented four peace proposals on the wish of government and it was agreed that these proposals will not be released to the Press unless some decision is taken. But Federal interior Minister and Sindh Chief Minister released one or two proposals of their choice to the Press and these were also without the real. [sentence as published] He said MQM honoured the commitment and it has not released the proposals to the Press.

PR Adds: The MQM Contact Committee, addressing, politicians intellectuals, journalists, Human Rights activists and general public said that government is neither serious nor sincere in its dialogue with the MQM. It has agreed to hold dialogues with the MQM under the mounting domestic and international pressures to give the impression that it wants to resolves all issues with MQM through negotiations.

Whereas, they said, the government has come to the negotiation table only: 1 to release the domestic and international pressure, 2. to continue genocide of Muhajirs under the cover of negotiations, 3. to create a hoax that it wants to settle issues through dialogues.

The Contact Committee said that they wanted to tell the masses that during the sessions of the dialogue MQM presented the most emergent problems to the government and asked it to end anti-MQM operation.

Sri Lanka

Deputy Minister Details Strategy Against LTTE

BK2207123695 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The deputy defense minister, Colonel Anuruddha Ratwatte, says that the security operations launched against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] will be concluded by defeating the terrorists according to a set plan. He said that he was giving this assurance on behalf of the government and the president. The deputy minister was addressing Parliament yesterday. He said that the dissemination of information on the security operations should be restricted, otherwise the details will fall into the hands of the enemy.

Troops in Operation Leap Forward began their forward march from the Palali camp and consolidated their positions in several areas in the Jaffna Peninsula. This was launched to defeat the enemy and said to return to the Palali Army Camp. [sentence as heard] Col. Ratwatte said that there was no intention to build bunkers and defense lines in a 78 square km-area liberated by the troops from the grasp of the LTTE. The forces will advance from there onward by consolidating their positions and launching a mobile offensive. The minister also said that the government had no intention of dragging the war any longer. It has been launched against the terrorists who do not want peace.

The desire of the majority of the people in the country is to defeat the minor terrorist group and to restore peace in the island. The first phase of the government's national plan was to militarily defeat a group which stands against peace. (?Clarifying) the government's strategy to restore peace in the country, he told the house that a political solution would be submitted as the next phase of the plan. He said the objective was to strengthen the people economically in the liberated areas.

Col. Ratwatte paid a tribute to the security forces for their bravery and commitment and said that the troops were fulfilling their duties without causing harm to civilians. He denied that innocent civilians were being harassed by the Army. Not a single civilian was affected in the areas where operations have been conducted and the government has already taken measures to provide facilities to the people in the liberated areas. He concluded that the LTTE was trying to gain political advantage and win international sympathy by carrying out a false propaganda campaign against the government.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

'Urgent' Arms Purchase From Pakistan Reported

BK2707101795 Hong Kong AFP in English 0958 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, July 27 (AFP) — The Sri Lankan airforce Thursday [27 July] sent a transport aircraft to Pakistan to fetch urgent military supplies to fight Tamil Tiger guerrillas, defence sources said.

The airforce Y-8 aircrfat left for Karachi and was expected to proceed to the Pakistan capital of Islamabad to bring among other things, artillery ammunition and mortar bombs for security forces, the sources said.

Details of the arms deal were not immediately available.

The Sri Lankan move came after a major offensive against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the island's northern Jaffna peninsula where the rebels maintain a de facto separate state.

Reportage on Fighting Between Government, LTTE

Army Forces Attack Rebel Headquarters

BK2707130195 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 27 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Elite Army commandos and Special Forces troops launched a pre-dawn attack against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] headquarters at Mallakam in Jaffna, three miles ahead of the security forces forward defense locality at Alaveddi. In a lighting raid, troops of the Special Forces brigade and Army commandos killed at least five terrorists. Senior military sources told LANKAPUVATH that the terrorists were taken completely by surprise. They left behind 20 mortar bombs, one AK-47 rifle, 30 LTTE uniforms, medical equipment, and documents. Mallakam is located north of (Chunna) and south of Tellipallai.

Security Forces Repulse Rebel Attacks

BK2807065395 Hong Kong AFP in English 0636 GMT 28 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, July 28 (AFP) — Heavy fighting raged in northeastern Sri Lanka Friday [28 July] as security forces repulsed a Tamil Tiger guerrilla attack on five camps, killing at least 116 rebels for the loss of two soldiers, the military said.

The navy and the airforce were called in to support ground troops which beat off the simultaneous attacks by the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said.

He said the hundreds of rebels, including female cadres, mounted the pre-dawn offensive against five military facilities at Weli Oya, Kokkuthuduvai, Kokilai, Janapakura and Jayasinghepura but troops successfully beat it off.

Two soldiers were killed and another 22 wounded, 13 of them seriously, in the fierce three-hour fighting. Munasinghe said the Tigers suffered heavily in the well executed army counter-offensive based on advance information.

The LTTE fired a heat-seeking surface-to-air missile at an airforce helicopter transporting troops to the battle field but the pilot managed to dodge it as he was flying low, Munasinghe said.

It was the first time that the rebels were known to have fired a heat-seeking missile outside the LTTE-held northern Jaffna peninsula where they have downed three aircraft since April.

Munasinghe said the military was well prepared for the LTTE offensive. Two suicide women cadres of the LTTE were shot dead by soldiers as they tried to break into the Weli Oya camp.

"As they were hit, they exploded in a ball of fire. Obviously they were strapped with explosives," Munasinghe said. Earlier this month the LTTE used 17 suicide cadres known as Black Tigers to blast a navy ship.

"They have learnt a bitter lesson. We have reports that 47 terrorists bodies are outside the Weli Oya brigade headquarters alone," Munasinghe said adding that the airforce and the navy destroyed several rebel boats.

Military sources said that at least 69 bodies of LTTE men were found at the Kokkuthuduvai army camp located along the coast. Military figures showed that at least 116 rebels had been killed during the three hour battle.

As the fighting died down, hundreds of army soldiers began a clearing operation looking for LTTE bodies and explosives and anti- personnel mines outside the five camps which came under attack.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Three of the camps are located along the coast while the other two are inland surrounded by thick jungle. A key LTTE facility known as the 14-base is located further to the north of Weli Oya.

The latest LTTE attack against the camps in the northeast came more than a week after the security forces conducted a major ground offensive against the LTTE inside the northern Jaffna peninsula where they maintain a de facto state.

The LTTE is leading a violent campaign to establish an independent homeland for Sri Lankan's two million Tamil minority concentrated in northern and eastern regions.

Over 50,000 people have died in bitter fighting in the LTTE's drawn out guerrilla campaign since 1972.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

— Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.

— Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.

— Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.